AM I AN AFRICAN?

AFROPHOBIA AND XENOPHOBIA IN SOUTH AFRICA
What does it mean to be African?

- It means you live on the second-largest continent in the world, with 54 countries
- You make up one of the 1.1 billion people on the continent (15% of the world population)
- Your continent is known as the birthplace of humankind
- You’re all dealing with the effects of having been colonized (in the 19th century the European powers violently occupied almost all African countries)

African Unity: Did you know...

- The 25th of May is Africa Day: Africa Day is the annual remembering of the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, now called the African Union. On this day, leaders of 30 of the 32 independent African states signed a founding charter in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to work towards transforming the African Economy and co-operation, collaboration and peace between all African countries.
- The borders of different African countries were not decided by Africans, but by the Europeans who colonized Africa.
- The similarities of our indigenous languages – known as bantu languages show how we originated in the same place 2,500–3,000 years ago and traveled eastward and southward from what is now known as Cameroon. So in many ways, we could all be considered migrants!

Terms we need to understand

- Immigrant is someone who comes to live permanently in another country
- Expats is a term usually given to white immigrants
- Foreigner is a term usually used to describe black migrants
- Migrant is someone who moves from place to place in order to find work or better living conditions.
- Non-migrant is used to describe people who were born in one place in a country and have not moved
- Domestic migrants or internal migrants is used to describe people who were born in a country and who move around in that country
- Xenophobia is the fear of someone who is seen to be foreign or strange
- Afrophobia is a fear of the cultures and people of Africa
- Racism is when a person/society believes that a particular race is superior or inferior to another
- Internalized racism or self-racism is when a person believes and acts out racist beliefs on themselves or people who are like them
If we look at xenophobic attacks in South Africa, who are we attacking?
People who South Africans see nothing of ourselves in or people who South Africans see ourselves in? Internalised racism shows itself in the absence of attacks against white migrants. Black African migrants are called “foreigners”; whereas, white migrants are considered “tourists” or “expats”. Are we projecting our anger (about lack of housing, lack of welfare, lack of jobs) onto people with less rights than us?

Discuss how you would make sense of what is happening in South Africa? Are South Africans xenophobic? Are South Africans afrophobic? Can you be afrophobic if you are African?

"You can not hate the roots of a tree and not hate the tree - you can not hate your origin and not end up hating yourself.”
Malcolm X - African American Liberation Movement Leader

Myth 1: International Foreigners take our jobs
82% of the working population aged between 15 and 64 are “non-migrants”, 14% are “domestic migrants” who have moved between provinces in the past five years. Just 4% are “international migrants” not only from Africa, but other international countries too.

Myth 2: International migrants are more likely to be employed than South Africans
26% of “non-migrants” are unemployed and 32% of “domestic migrants” are unemployed. 14.68% of international migrants are unemployed. While international migrants are less likely to be unemployed, most find themselves in positions of unstable employment. They don’t have access to benefits or formal work contracts and are more likely to take jobs that locals are not willing to take or find work in the informal sector.

Myth 3: International migrants are taking over the informal sector (spaza shops)
A survey of the informal sector in Johannesburg showed that less than 2 out of 10 people who owned a business in the informal sector in Johannesburg were international migrants.
31% of the 618 international migrant traders interviewed rented properties from South Africans. Collectively they also employed 1,223 people, of which 503 were South Africans.
Read the extract from the poem below, while asking the question: Are South Africans afrophobic or are South Africans xenophobic?

“We loathe the very ancestry that runs through our veins
The hate like tar over concrete
The shadows stretched over the ashes of a 16 year old Congolese shopkeeper,
and his sister – waiting for him and all she gets is condolences
The ashes reminiscing the time they use to glow so bright in between the ribcages of the 500 children that will go with out that night
You see smoke can signal the ending of a black man’s dreams,
all because they told you that one dead black is
one less mouth to feed for the government
Forgetting that fighting fire with fire is considered genocide,
and that the smell of burning flesh can wake the ancestors in rage

So tell Malcolm X we lynching our own
And while you at it tell Dr King his speech was a joke,
James Cameron his noose is a fashion accessory,
Nelson Mandela his cell was a mansion,
Tell our dead activists that despite their raised fists from 6 feet underground,
That we lynch our own.”

- Lerato Mokobe, Slam Poet from Cape Town

(Full poem) 🎤

“I am not African because I was born in Africa but because Africa was born in me.”
- Kwame Nkrumah (First president of Ghana in 1957, and led Ghana’s independence from the British)
Different ways to think about ‘Am I an African?’

- African unity and pride - what it is, how do we practice it?
- Do South Africans see themselves as Africans? Explain?
- Are South Africans xenophobic? Are they afrophobic?

Research different ways to think about afrophobia and xenophobia

- Xenophobia: Report debunks misconceptions about resentment of foreigners
- South Africa’s xenophobic attacks: are migrants really stealing jobs?
- SA afrophobia a legacy of white monopoly capitalism
- Africa - wikipedia
- Africa - SA History Online
- Organisation of African Unity (OAU)

Different ways to talk about afrophobia and xenophobia in South Africa

- Defining xenophobia and afrophobia
- What are the similarities and differences?
- How do we experience and practise xenophobia and afrophobia in South Africa?
- What causes afrophobia? How can we overcome afrophobia?

“To the same degree that your understanding of and attitude towards Afrika becomes more positive, your understanding of and attitude towards yourself will also become more positive…”

- Malcolm X, African American Liberation Movement Leader
Vox Pop

**Vox Pop aim:** to get many opinions on one topic.

**Who do you talk to:** Anybody from the community.

**Question:** Do you think South Africans are afrophobic?

Audio commentary

**Audio commentary aim:** To get people’s opinion about a topic that they care deeply about.

**Who do you talk to:** A young African migrant who has experienced xenophobia or afrophobia in South Africa, and what they believe the motive was behind that treatment.

Audio profile

**Audio profile aim:** To get a first person account of someone’s experience and journey.

**Who do you talk to:** An adult or young adult who witnessed a xenophobic/afrophobic attack.

**Questions to ask to get the person thinking before they record their profile:**

- ★ What does it mean to you to be African?
- ★ Do you understand being African and South African as different?
- ★ How did you feel when you witnessed a xenophobic attack?
- ★ Do you feel it’s possible to hate someone who is so much like you?
- ★ What would you say to someone who hates Africans not from South Africa?

PSA

**The aim of a PSA:** to create a public awareness message

Voice 1: How does that joke go again Tumi?
Voice 2: Which one?
Voice 1: The one about the soccer players and the CAF Champions league, you know the one!? [Laughs]
Voice 2: Oh yes! OK… um, it’s something like… “When you ask a South African soccer player in the CAF where he is playing he’ll say: ‘I’m going to play in Africa.’
Voice 1: Wait… I don’t get it…
Voice 2: Eish, Sizwe! What continent do you live on? As if South Africa is not part of Africa!

Tagline: Know where you are, know who you are.

Voice 1: I’m South African, I am African
### Ethics and consent

This is a sensitive topic, so make sure you inform your interviewees properly and get their full consent.

### Show outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Intro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intro Vox Pop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vox Pop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outro Vox Pop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music transition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intro audio profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outro profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music transition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jingle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intro interview (and or Intro audio commentary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview (and or Audio Commentary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outro interview (and or outro audio commentary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music transition &amp; Jingle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read a poem related to the topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General outro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music end</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You must always introduce your show and radio features. Then once you’ve played your features have a concluding statement for each one. Don’t forget a final conclusion for the very end of the show.

Use links (facts, tips, did you knows, music) to glue it all together.

Now write your radio script
How to present your show

Use your produced radio features, your research, and the suggested script and questions to write your own script.

Suggested questions for an interview with a young adult who is in a relationship (friends/couple) with someone from another African country. Even better, would be if you could interview them together!

★ What was it like when you first started to hang out?
★ How do you deal with other people’s opinions about being friends/romantic couple?
★ What have you learned about yourself by being in a relationship with someone from a different African country?
★ What have you learned about your community by being in a relationship with someone from a different African country?
★ What do you think about when people say things like “foreigners steal our women”?
★ What advice do you have for someone who maybe wants to be friends with a neighbour or classmate or work colleague who is from another African continent but is holding back?
★ How can TB infection be prevented?
★ Can you describe how TB has affected our local community?
★ What advice do you have for those trapped by the stigma surrounding TB?

Once you’ve finalised your script, produced your radio features, finalised your show clock it’s time to go live on air! [Refer to icon]

[INTRO:]
Host 1: Oh yes! It’s that time of the day ya’ll! It’s [TIME] and you’re just in time for the [NAME OF SHOW] on [RADIO STATION]. My name is [NAME]...
Host 2: And [NAME] is here with you too! And if you didn’t know yet, May is Africa month. So today we’ll be figuring out what is xenophobia and what is afrophobia, and what’s up with South Africans not feeling and acting like we’re part of the continent?!
Host 1: Tjoe, I’m excited to hear what people think. It’s a complicated one, yes we are living on the African continent, but with the xenophobia we experience do we really see ourselves as African?
Host 2: Well, let’s hear what people have to say.

[PLAY VOX POPS]
[PRESENT WHO IS BEING INTERVIEWED]
[PLAY THE INTERVIEW]

[OUTRO:]
Host 1: I feel like we need a whole ‘nother show to talk about this, it’s a lot more complicated than I thought.
Host 2: Ja, I have so many questions! I’ve always thought of myself as African, but this show has really shown me that some of my thoughts or the way I speak don’t reflect that...
Host 1: Hopefully we’ve given you something to think about too, go to our facebook page [name of page] and let us know what it means to be African in South Africa - are we afrophobic?
Host 2: And next week on [DAY] at [TIME] we’ll be talking all about [NEXT WEEK’S SHOW TOPIC]. Until then, it’s bye from us!