

CultureTalk South Africa Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Public School Experiences

Zulu Transcript:

Z: Wafundaphi isikole?

S: Eh... ngafunda Enthuthukweni – ngaya eTownview.

Z: iEnthuthukweni yona iyisikole esinjani?

S: Yisikole esilungile *as* umntwana uma ucala ukufunda vele ngoba izinto eziningi... ezinye izikole awuzazi. Manje mina ngayiswa Enthuthukweni ngoba yisikole esiseduze nala bengihlala khona.

Z: Manje iEnthuthukweni yisikolo saselokishini?

S: Yebo esaselokishini sona isikolo – esabantu abahluphekilenyana¹ ngoba angithembi ukuthi bakhona abantu abenemali bangabayisa abantwana babo lapho. Enthuthukweni; yisikole esi-*right* nje.

Z: iTownview yona iyisikole esinjani?

S: Sona manje uma ungaya sesiyadura² ngoba sebashintshile abantu la abasebenza khona ukuthi kufike ilena... u-*principal* omusha. Manje nguye ocabange ukuthi akhuphule i... ama-*price we-school fees*³. And uvule nendawo yokuthi abanye abafundi bakhone ukuhlala khona esikoleni ngoba bahlala ezindaweni ezikude. Ngoba... hiyo eyenze ukuthi idure – ukuthi bazokhona uku-*support*-a abanye abantwana; sibancede kahle.

Z: Kodwa izimfundo zakhona zazilungile?

S: *Ja*⁴... zona izimfundo zi... zikahle zona. Iyanceda yona – yile... uyophumelela empilweni uma ungaya khona ngoba ilena abantu abaphasayo abaku-*matric*⁵ ubekuyi *ninety-eight percent*.

Z: Wena wawuyenza ziphi izimfundo?

¹ -nyana: A diminutive suffix.

² *ukudura*: From the Afrikaans *duur*, meaning expensive. In more standard Zulu, one could say *ukubiza* (to cost, or to cost a lot). *Ukudura* and *ukubiza* are both commonly used.

³ Unlike in the United States, most public schools in South Africa require one to pay school fees. Schools with more resources and extracurricular activities tend to cost more. Parents who are unable to pay the fees are sometimes able to get exemptions.

⁴ *Ja*: Afrikaans for “yes.” Commonly used by all South Africans as an alternative for “yes” in their particular language.

⁵ *matric*: The final year of high school, as in “I’m in matric this year.” Shortened from “matriculation year.” Also used to refer to a student in matric, as in “The matrics of 2010 did very well.”

S: Mina ngayenza *i-accounting*, *i-business* ne-*economics* ngayenza ne-*maths literacy* i-*LO*⁶ neAfrikaans... nesilungu⁷ – *English*.

Z: Wawuyensa ezinye izinto ngaphandle kokuyenze izifundo?

S: Ngikengangena... esikoleni bekune umdlalo bawuyenza ngangena kuwo – *nga-participate*-a kulomdlalo lowo.

Z: Kwakungumdlalo obizwani?

S: Bekuyi... *Hip-Hop Versus*... ngathi ngiyalikhohlwa leligama leli... ngilikhohliwe legama lakhona; kwakungumdlalo wokujaiva⁸. Bayenza nge-*movie* yakudala i-*Grease*... yebo.

Z: Nawe ube ungumdansi noma ube uyenza ezinye izinto ngaphandle kokudansa?

S: Bengingumdansi uma ngiqed'ukudansa bengingceda abanye abantu uku-*shift*-isa izinto abazidingayo *for* ukuthi bazongena nabo bazodansa ngaphambi kwabanye abantu.

Z: Abantu abaningi bazile ukuwubona lomdlalo?

S: Yebo bazile abaningi. Kusale... kwaza nabantu esijwayele ukubabona kumabonakude njengo Mr. Hlongwane oyi... ucula i-*gospel* la eMzansi⁹.

Z: Kungani beniyenze lomdlalo lo esikoleni – bekuyenza imali noma?

S: Beku – *for*... Ukuyenza imali *for* ilena i-*matric dance*¹⁰ *for* thina. Bese yaphumelela sakhona ukubhadala *for* lendawo le besiyi kuyo.

Z: i-*Matric dance* yona isho ukuthini?

S: Ifana nje... kula nizikhipha khona kokugcina *as* abantwana besikole ngoba uma seniqedile nge-*matric dance* sokuyisikhathi sokufunda. Besekuza ama-*prelim*¹¹ – kuphela ngama-*prelim* sokuyisikhathi sama-*exam* ama-*final* — sekuphelelile ngesikole...

Z: Manje i-*matric dance* ifika ngonyaka wenu wokugcina esikoleni?

⁶ LO: Life Orientation. A compulsory school subject for matric students that focuses on teaching basic life and career skills, etc.

⁷ *isilungu*: A term used to refer to English in Zulu. It is derived from the Zulu word *umlungu*, meaning white person. Another common Zulu term for English is *isingisi*.

⁸ *jaiva*: Colloquial term for dance, derived from “jive.”

⁹ Mzansi: Short for Mzansi Afrika, which is Zulu for South Africa. Ningizimu Afrika is also commonly used to refer to South Africa in Zulu.

¹⁰ *matric dance*: An event for high school matrics in their last year. A ball is held for them, similar to prom in the U.S.

¹¹ *prelims*: The preparatory exams that happen before the final examinations in December.

S: Yebo ifika ngonyaka wokugcina kuthi sizikhiphe.

Z: Uma uzilungisela *i-matric dance* – uyenze izinto ezinjani?

S: Ukuzilungisela *i-matric dance* kakhulu *for* abafana kulula ngoba umfana uyakhona ukuya esitolo athenge into ayibonile enhle. *For* amantombazane ngikholwa ukuthi kunzima ngoba bona kummele bacabange ngalezinto abazifaka ebusweni, i'nywele ne'ngubo abayozigcoka ne'catulo namazipho; zonke lezinto eziningi...

Z: Kuyadura ukuya *e-matric danc*-ini?

S: Akuduri kangakho *for* abafana kahle-kahle ngoba kunemali eniyibhadalayo *ye-matric* dansi bese kunale kummele uzithengele izimpahla. Bese uyazi abafana bona bayafika esitolo bayathatha baphume e'ntweni bayohlala... bayommela ilanga lize. Amantombazane bona bayommela bathunge lengubo noma bayofuna e'tolo labayo thenga khona – kana amantombazane abafuni ukugqoka ingubo ezifanayo... ngelanga labo...

Z: Wawuzithanda izifundo zakho?

S: Bengizithanda kakhulu – kakhulu *i-accounting* ne-*economics* – bekuyizo engizithandayo ukuphala zonke. Kahle mina ne... ukuqeda ngesikole bengifuna ukuyenza *i-financial management* kodwa sengicabagile ukuthi ngizohlala *e-office*-ini *every day* – mihla-yonke; angeke ngiyikhone lendaba. Sengikhethe ukuyenza *i-electrical and chemical engineering* ngoba ngiyazi ukuthi ngiyosebenza ngezandla, bangangithuma bathi ngiye kwenyindawo ngiyolungisa khona ngibuye futhi la... la engiqhashwe khona emsebenzini

Z: Abothisha baseTownview bebanjani?

S: Beba... *very*... beba... Bebakahle bona kahle; kakhuku la bengiba... amalena bengiwithanda – izimfundo bengizithanda kakhulu – bebafundisa kahle. Kakhulu *we-accounting* nalo *we-economics* bekunguye umuntu wakhona.

English Translation:

Z: Where did you go to school?

S: Eh... I studied at Enthuthukweni, and then I went to Townview.

Z: What kind of school is Enthuthukweni?

S: It's a good school for when you are starting school as a child – obviously because of many things... you do not know other schools yet. I was sent to Enthuthukweni [by my parents/guardian] because it was close to where I used to live.

Z: So Enthuthukweni is a township school?

S: Yes, the school is in the township – it is for people who are somewhat poor, because I don't think there are people that have money that would send their children there. Enthuthukweni is a school that is alright.

Z: What kind of school is Townview?

S: If you were to go there now, it is very expensive, because the people that work there have changed...there's even a new principal. It was him who thought to raise the school fees¹². And he opened a residence so that students can live on campus, because they live in areas that are far away. Because... that's what made it expensive – so that they can support these children, so that we can actually help them.

Z: But were the academics good there?

S: Yes... the academics were... good. It helps – it's the type that... you will succeed in life if you go there, because the number of people who pass matric¹³ is at 98 percent.

Z: What did you study there?

S: I did accounting, business, economics, and I did math literacy, LO¹⁴, and Afrikaans... and English.

Z: Did you do other things outside of your studies?

S: I once was part of... At school there was a show – they put it on, and I did it; I participated in that show.

Z: What was the show called?

S: It was... *Hip-Hop Versus*... I seem to be forgetting this name... I have forgotten the name. It was a show about dancing. They made it from the old movie *Grease*, yes.

Z: Were you also a dancer, or did you do other things instead of that?

S: I was a dancer, and when I was done [dancing] I would help other people to get ready the things they needed to perform in front of the audience.

¹² Unlike in the United States, most public schools in South Africa require one to pay school fees. Schools with more resources and extracurricular activities tend to cost more. Parents who are unable to pay the fees are sometimes able to get exemptions.

¹³ matric: The final year of high school, as in "I'm in matric this year." Shortened from "matriculation year." Also used to refer to a student in matric, as in "The matrics of 2010 did very well."

¹⁴ LO: Life Orientation. A compulsory school subject for matric students that focuses on teaching basic life and career skills, etc.

Z: Did a lot of people come to see this show?

S: Yes, many did. There was... Even people we see on TV came, like Mr. Hlongwane, who is... he sings gospel in South Africa.

Z: Why did you put on this show at school – was it to raise funds, or...?

S: It was for... to make money for the thing – the matric dance¹⁵ – for us. Then it went well, and we were able to pay for the place that we went to.

Z: What is a matric dance?

S: It is like... it is when you go out for the last time as students, because once the matric dance is over it is then time to study. Then there are prelims¹⁶ – the prelims end, then it is time for the final exams, then school is over.

Z: So the matric dance happens in your last year at school?

S: Yes, it happens in our last year so that we can go out and have fun.

Z: In preparing for the matric dance – what kind of things did you do?

S: To prepare for the matric dance, a lot of times for the boys it is easy, because a boy can go to a store and just buy something he saw that looked good. For girls I believe that it's harder, because they have to think about the things they will put on their face, their hair, the dress that they will wear, the shoes, and the nails; all these things.

Z: Is it expensive to go to a matric dance?

S: It's not that expensive for boys; because there is the money that you pay for the actual matric dance, and then there is money that is meant for you to buy yourself clothes. But then of course, you know boys; they arrive at the store and they choose, and then they are done with things and sit around... They go and wait for the day to arrive. Girls, however, they will wait for the dress to be sewn for them, or they will look in the stores that they shop in – remember that girls do not want to wear the same dress [as other girls] on their special day.

Z: Did you enjoy your studies?

S: I liked them a lot – especially accounting and economics were the ones I liked more than all the others. Actually I... Once school finished, I wanted to do financial management, but I've now thought about it; I would be in an office all day always. I would never be able to do that. I have therefore chosen to do electrical and chemical

¹⁵ matric dance: An event for high school matrics in their last year. A ball is held for them, similar to prom in the U.S.

¹⁶ prelims: The preparatory exams that happen before the final examinations in December.

engineering, because I know that I will be working with my hands; they can send me to another place to fix things there and come back here... where I will be employed to work.

Z: What were the teachers like at Townview?

S: They were... very... They were... They were fine... Mostly those that I... The things [subjects] that I liked, in the subjects that I liked a lot, they taught [them] well; Especially the guy who did accounting and economics.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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