

IN MY OWN WORDS:

CLASSROOM SUPPORT

The objective of the *In My Own Words* films is to equip teachers with a resource to support students in their educational journey, and deepen their desire to learn about the truth of residential schools and the process of reconciliation. Learning about reconciliation is a lifelong journey that requires building relationships between indigenous peoples and settlers; this film cannot act as a replacement for these relationships.

CULTURAL CONTEXT

We recommend that teachers invite a local indigenous elder or knowledge keeper to the classroom to support the pre and post-video discussions. Please note that there are protocols that should be followed to invite elders to share their knowledge. The University of Carleton has a [useful write-up](#).

CURRICULUM CONTEXT

This film series requires a basic understanding of residential schools and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We recommend using the films only after context has been established in your classroom.

ACCESS THE FILMS

In My Own Words can be streamed for free at InMyOwnWords.ca.

PRE-VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In the context of residential schools, what do the words Truth, Reconciliation and Hope mean to you?

POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Has your understanding of residential schools and/or the meaning of the words Truth, Hope and Reconciliation changed? Why/why Not?
- Many of the speakers cautioned about an apology living on a shelf. How do we ensure documents like an apology or the TRC report don't just sit on a shelf?
- As Noel Starblanket said, now that you know about the history of residential schools, what are you going to do?
- How do you live out an apology?
- Would you be able to accept an apology and accept forgiveness? Why/why not?
- What are some stereotypes of indigenous people? Where do these stereotypes come from? What are steps to change them?

ADDITIONAL EXERCISES

- There are a number of people in the films with a lot of wisdom and experience on the topic of reconciliation and residential schools. If you were able to interview one of the people in the film, what questions would you ask them and why?
- Prepare an interview for students on the themes presented in the films. Conduct an interview of a classmate. Switch roles and debrief the process.