

JDC NEWSLETTER

Tell a story or write a report about "Freedom" (or lack of) from your own life:

"Freedom is nothing that should be taken for granted. Freedom can be taken away at any moment."

"I have been down the wrong road in and out of juvenile Detention Center but God keeps giving me chances, and I'm thankful for God because if he didn't exist, I probably would have been dead or getting a life sentence."

"Just be grateful for your freedom. Some are born with it and some aren't. Just know that if you were fortunate enough to be born with it, it can be taken away, like it is now (in DJJ), but the good part about freedom is you can have it if you search for it."

"The police, judges, and the state can take away your freedom anytime they want. That's why you have to stay out of the police's face."

"Freedom is an amazing thing, and a lot of people, like myself, take it for granted until its taken away, I'll never come back to DJJ, I now realize how great freedom is - you don't have to be told when to eat, shower, etc. Freedom is power."

"Now that I'm in the department of juvenile justice (DJJ) Detention Center, I realize all the freedom I had has been taken by the law until I get released, but now since I'm locked up, I notice all my opportunity I had to do and all the smarter choices I could [have done] to prevent myself from coming to (DJJ)."

FREEDOM

Freedom was the topic of discussion for the month of June during Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring sessions at the Regional Miami-Dade Juvenile Detention Center. The young men participating in the meeting analyzed several quotes representing different perspectives of freedom, and recited Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise" before discussing and writing their responses for this edition of the JDC Newsletter. The contributors read quotes by Dr. Seuss, Maya Angelou, Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King, Thucydides, Voltaire, Moshe Dyan, and Don Delillo. The young men's written responses reflect their opinions, stories, regrets, and positive peer advice and goals about freedom.

Writing is
freedom.

Don Delillo

"Freedom - you will never know how much freedom you got until you lose it. I lost my freedom when I made a mistake. Now I wish I had my freedom back. (DJJ) is an example of how I have to listen to what somebody else tells me when to take showers and when to line up and when to eat and you got to go to school by force. When I'm out, I'll just try my best to stay out and enjoy my life, because you don't know what God's got planned for you, but you've got to control where it takes you."

"For me, freedom is what keeps you happy. With [freedom], you can make your own choices, go by your own reality, and you can sleep when you want, without someone telling you when to. Freedom is a joyful thing. You have fun hang out and enjoy yourself. And without freedom you can't experience life. Don't take freedom for granted, use your freedom wifely."

"Being detained for 4 months has shown me that I take freedom for granted."

"Everybody needs freedom. You don't want to be here with everybody that has been doing bad things in their life. You will want freedom if you get locked up. The guards tell you to eat, sleep, and shower. Not everyone's perfect, trust me. If your friend did a crime and you were there, you're going to get the same charges as them even if you did nothing. That's my story, because I'm here for doing something I didn't ever do."

"Freedom is something everyone should have, because it brings peace to the world and people. My life at this moment is alright, but I'm locked up. I had my freedom but I messed it up, but when I get out, I will receive my freedom and then use it for good and not dumb."

"Money and [get] out of this detention center."

"Freedom can take you anywhere in life you just got to control it where it takes you, because

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**YOU CAN'T SEPARATE
PEACE FROM FREEDOM
BECAUSE NO ONE CAN BE
AT PEACE UNLESS HE
HAS HIS FREEDOM.**

~MALCOLM X



had too much freedom, I wanted to do anything I wanted, but I wasn't following the laws and listening to my grandmother."

"There was freedom that was taken from me when I got locked up, and now I have very little or no freedom until I get released."

Write a response to one of the "Freedom" quotes on the wall chart (or Maya Angelou's Poem):

"The state is holding me from being free to the world and the judge."

"I think it's saying freedom is free compared to oxygen, because they are alike."

"The Dr. Seuss quote is saying we are our own person, we make our own decisions. The reason we're in here is because of our decisions, whatever we [wanna] do is up to us, and wherever we [wanna] go is up to us."

"You'll never know what you have until you lose it - Freedom."

"What the quote is saying is that peace cannot be without freedom."

"Only the truth will set you free. As in sometimes, life can knock you down and lock you up, you might feel like an animal, but it's up to you to have the courage to step things up."

Once you find the drive to look forward and not back, then you'll find happiness as well."

"The quote means that if you don't have freedom, you can't have peace, because you can't do what you want."

"I will let people know how much freedom they have until they lose it; and will tell them about my past and what I experienced, and where



Freedom is the oxygen of the soul.
- Moshe Dayan

they want to be and not be in jail. [Enjoy] your freedom while you can."

"Freedom is the oxygen of the soul because without oxygen there is no soul. Freedom is with soul."

"You're smart enough to graduate school but you choose to stay home because you don't have petty little knick knacks that everyone else has. Instead of getting an education, you choose to be ignorant."

"Freedom is a good thing to have and don't take it for granted."

"I'm in jail and I wish to be free. The judge holding me back from getting free."

Write a response to the "Freedom" story/poem that was read aloud:

"Meaning not to give up and strive for your dream."

"I want to be a free man. I don't like the feeling of being locked up."

"The freedom poem makes you think about what you could be doing outside of jail."

"Everyone should be able to have freedom in this world."

"I could say freedom is not to be taken for granted; it is something to be cherished when you lose it, it's hard to get it back."

"My response is that people should always have freedom, no matter where they are."

"My experience of freedom - I can do what I want, I can be around my family and enjoy life forever, but not wasting my time in DJJ."

"Everybody wants a pat on the back and a warm hug; that's what everybody wants in life to show the person you care."

"I wish I was free so I can change my life, so I can't come back to jail no more. If the judge gives me one more chance, I will change my life now."

"No matter what happens, or how bad it seems today or yesterday, life doesn't wait on anyone."

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Tomorrow is a new day so make the best of it.”



Share your own positive peer advice about “Freedom” (or lack of):

“Whenever you commit a crime, just know that your freedom is on the line.”

“Stay out of trouble, stay away from a harmful environment.”

“Freedom can take you a long way in life.”

“Do right and you can have your freedom. Do wrong, and you will not have freedom.”

“Freedom is a great gift to have but when you lose it, you will regret it, and you will be wanting it back. I miss being free because being in this place [isn’t] for me. It’s not made for me, I’m too smart for this.”

“Everyone should be able to have freedom in this world.”

“You should live in harmony and not abuse freedom to do something bad or hurt someone; and respect and appreciate freedom and people.”

“Don’t take freedom as a game because it can be taken away as fast as it can be given back to

you.”

“You can do what’s best for you to do, you can talk to girls, you can go out have fun and eat lovely and live life.”

“Freedom is what everybody wants, but if you mess up, anybody can take your freedom away from you.”

“If I was free, I would get a job change my life, so I can’t come back to jail, and so my mom can stop crying everytime I come to jail.”

“Do whatever it takes to maintain your freedom. No matter what the crime is, it’s not worth your freedom.”

“You should have peace and love and that’s what freedom is, and also respect one another.”

