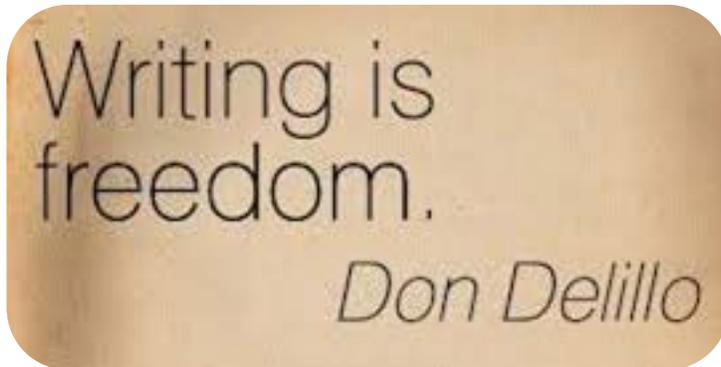


JDC NEWSLETTER



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

"Loss of freedom has been going on since before you and I were born."

"When I was free, I chose to do the wrong thing, and now I have to face the consequences. I love freedom and next time I'm free, I'll do my best to stay free."

"I remember I was once free, and I didn't take advantage of it. So now that I am not free, my only wish is for freedom to be home everyday, to be with my family, or even have a home cooked meal. I wish I still had my freedom."

"When I was free I didn't think I was free, but when I came in DJJ, I lost my freedom, and now I wish I had that freedom again. It's hard to know that you had freedom and you didn't realize it until it's too late and that people were trying to help you stay free. But you live and you learn from your mistakes, and I hope who reads this is enjoying the freedom."

"My life is like a movie. I had freedom, but hanging with the wrong crowd got me in a stressful place and I lost my freedom. But in jail, I can learn that freedom is more important than being under someone else's control. We all need freedom and happiness, but we chose the wrong way to go in lost that, but never again. I learned from my mistake, I love my freedom."

FREEDOM

Freedom and the loss of freedom was the topic of discussion for this month's Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring session 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. Their written responses reflect memories, realizations, regrets, and renewed positive peer

"My situation: I'm locked up right now [with] no freedom physically or mentally. When I get out, I'll change my habits, ways, and [how] I talk to people, and basically change my attitude."

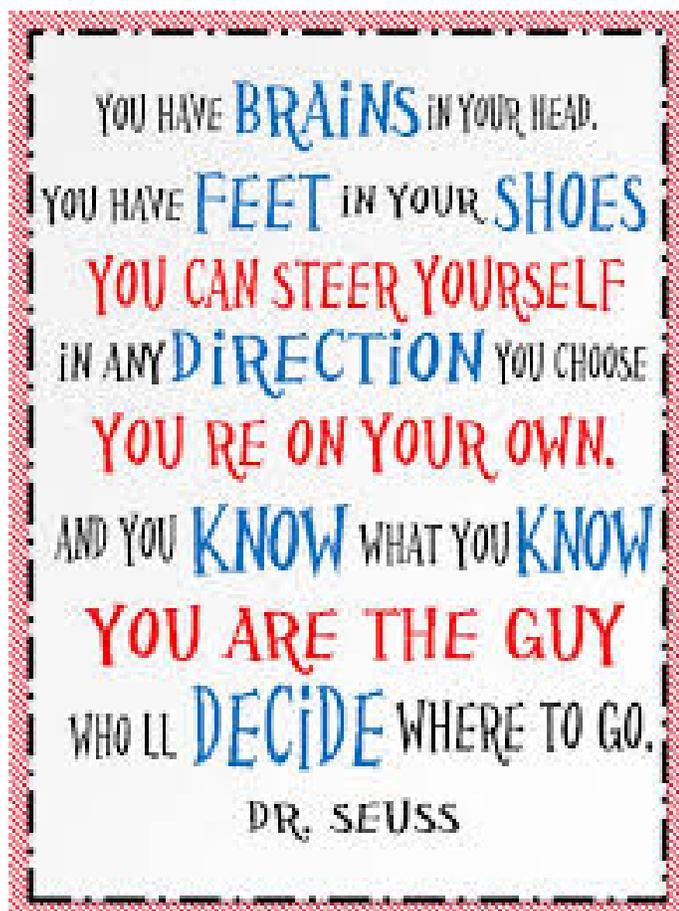
"Freedom is to enjoy life and be thankful for what you've got and what you achieve in life. Life is too short to be playing with your freedom. It's better to appreciate things in life than be mean and undecided."

"I have no story for the word freedom. But I think of a day when I go home. It hurt to see me down and caged when I should be home taking care of my [grandma] in her old age, so I ask, what is the word freedom?"

"The secret of happiness is freedom, I choose this because with no happiness there's no freedom and you may feel down."

"Freedom is the best. We all need freedom in our life."

"What do I think about freedom - no matter how hard life gets on you, that you should



never give up on life, that you should never try to be something you're not no matter how many obstacles you face, you still move on with life. Never let somebody tell you what to do. You are free to make your own choices."

"I think everyone should have a little freedom, because if you think about it, our ancestors didn't - so why keep the cycle going, why not break it with giving everyone freedom even the ones that don't deserve it locked down or not."

"As a juvenile delinquent, we are given chances in life to change our ways. People usually shake it off when there's nobody beside them to help them, but I believe that you don't need anyone, because at the end of everything, it is up to you."



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

~MALCOLM X

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

"Patience is key- Being able to wait for something or someone calmly and not irritate your life for something that's not worth it."

"Life does go on and it will be better tomorrow."

"I learned that freedom is something we all need and it is important to have. I learned that freedom is happiness and courage is freedom."

"It lets me know that everybody got a different opinion on what freedom is and that is something that I didn't know."

"Even if there is a rainy day, things will always

be better tomorrow.”

“Be your own person, your own man, and take responsibility for your actions.”

“People may talk bad about you and try to throw dirt on your name while you’re gone.”



“No matter what happens, life goes on. Regardless of your relation with your loved ones, you’ll miss them when they’re gone, no matter what.”

“Escribir es una manera de liberta cuando escribes libremete cuando realmente escribes lo que piensas eso es liberta de expression.”

“I believe freedom is someone who is able to do what they dream of with no one in the way of stopping them. Everyone should grow up with a sense of freedom and faith so they could be what they like.”

“I believe it is the truth.”

“Es que uno esta libre bien con la familia una Buena familia y com amigos con el mas persona paz salud respetar otra gente como un buen respeto.”

“My life - my life is full of ups and downs. When I look, I see bad all through my town. I can’t help but to try to think on my own, but I feel as if my life repeats the same song.”

“I believe the quote is the truth.”

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

“Happiness is everything.”

“I like the way she encourages freedom.”

“I see if you have freedom you should never give up on life. Just let the past [stay in] the past, and tomorrow will be better.”

“Live your life, be free, and enjoy your time on earth.”

“That people was trying to put her down and look at her different, but she still didn’t change who she was and that is power that all of us need.”

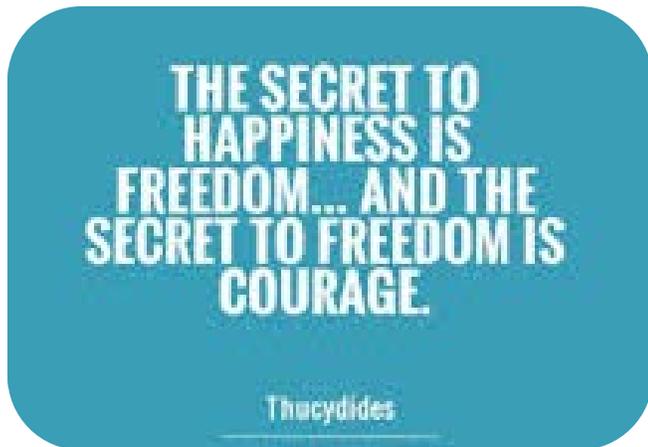
“That we have the key to get out of our own problems.”

“I feel the poem encourages me more to take my freedom and don’t let it get taken away.”

“Los pensamiento de ella eran correctos y insitavan a otros a segrir sus ideas de libertad.”

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“No matter what the burden is, the situation you’re in, it should not cut off your faith and you should be able to turn the other cheek to



any insult and move forward.”

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

“Do what your heart tells you to do and everything will go as planned.”

“You should appreciate it and don’t take it for granted.”

“I feel like freedom is very important because it’s courage and it’s happiness - something we all need in life to remain happy.”

“That if you have freedom, enjoy it while you have it, and never let anyone take that from you, and do the right thing the first time, so you won’t lose your freedom.”

“To be free of all your problems and situations you going through.”

“Freedom is a very prized possession. Hold it close and don’t lose it.”