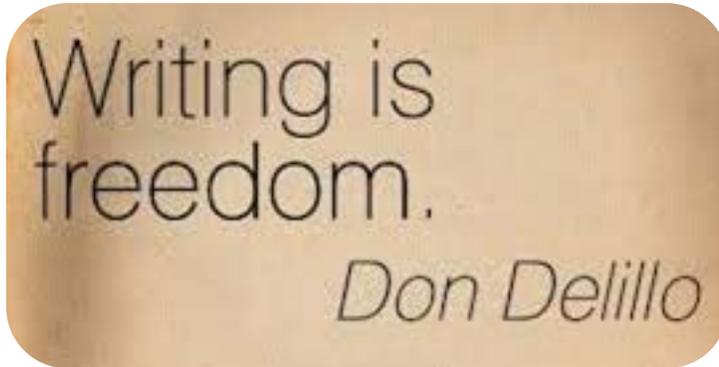


# JDC NEWSLETTER



**Write a response to one of the freedom quotes on the wall chart (or the Maya Angelou poem):**

"So many times, it happens that we live our lives in chains, and we never even know we have the key."

"Do what I want to do at any time with no one telling what to do at all time. All people should be happy and love themselves."

"(Right to do whatever you want) is freedom to do whatever you want to do; it feels good because you don't have to listen to anyone."

"The secret of happiness is freedom. The secret of freedom is courage."

"Freedom is a big thing in life and important to people. All people should be happy and have love."

"Once upon a time, there were a boy named Benjamin; he had freedom, he played football and basketball too. He likes sports. He's really good in sports."

"I think freedom is still not given to the people because there is a lot of laws that are still being made. We're heading right back to slavery!"

"You can't separate peace from freedom, because everybody want to kill each other just because of the city you are from - that why you can't separate them."

## FREEDOM

Freedom was the topic of discussion for this month's Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring sessions at the Regional Miami-Dade Juvenile Detention Center. The young men participating in the meeting analyzed 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 young men read quotes by Dr. Seuss, Maya Angelou, Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King, Thucydides, Voltaire, Moshe Dyan and Don DeLillo. The contributors shared their reflections, opinions, stories, insights, and positive peer advice with renewed goals about freedom.

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

**~MALCOLM X**

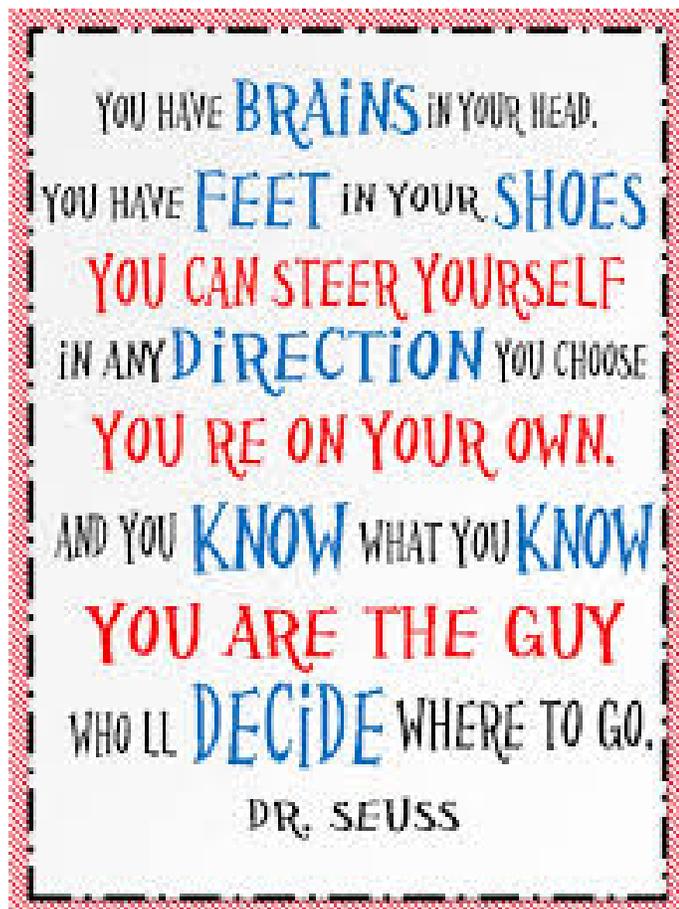


**Write a response to the “Freedom” story/poem that was read aloud:**

“If I had freedom, I’d appreciate it more and take advantage of it.”

“Positive poem and its very truthful too. And I agree with her, because she speaks about nothing but freedom and peace.”

“I believe we still are fighting for freedom. Everyday laws are being made. We as people are easing our way back into slavery that’s not segregated.”



“I feel like everyone should have [freedom] at all times. No one should feel sad or mad.”

“Benjamin is a good person he likes to help people, he prays to God and asks for freedom. God gave him freedom so Benjamin helps

people who need help. He plays football and basketball.”

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

“Priceless, the right to do what you want.”

“People should say what they want to say, walk where they want to walk, and respect people that respect [them].”

“For the past years since we had freedom it has been good, but the murder rates and crime rates have been increasing.”

**Tell a story or write a report about “freedom” (or lack of) from your own life:**

“I love my freedom, because I can do what I want when I want. Also I don’t have to move at any one time. Without freedom, you can’t really be yourself.”

“Freedom is the best. With freedom, you can do anything spend time with your family, pray, sports, and have fun, it’s way better than being in jail.”

“Because when you’re in DJJ, you have people telling you when to eat sleep and take a shower, but when you’re free, you can eat, sleep, and take a shower when you want to.”

“People should respect you. Go where you want to go. Talk to who they want. Play with who they want to. And do what they want.”

“I am only 15 years old. I was stopped by the police and was beaten for no reason.”

“When you lose freedom, it shows you how great and how valuable freedom is, but some use freedom for negative and others use it for good. Never take freedom for granted, something so simple as walking to the kitchen and getting something to eat. So use your

## Critical Community of Practice Creating an Empowering Culture of Thinking

freedom in a positive way, because it can be taken away as fast as it can be given to you.”

“Freedom is the best when you’re not in jail. I lost my freedom by in coming in here.”



“Last year I was locked up in a program. I did 13 months there. So I was released and returned [home and when I got out], everyone gave me compliments. And told other things that were nice.”

“Freedom is something that everybody wants and have, but it hard to notice it. When you’re doing wrong, you don’t notice your freedom until it is gone, so don’t let your freedom go to waste, because you are going to miss it, because

I do. So change your ways before it’s too late, and become what you could be, and don’t worry about what anybody says about you,

because you know who you are.”

“No freedom means you get no benefits or opportunities to do better. With freedom, you get to have a chance to do positive things.”

“Freedom is life at its best/I love being free, forget the rest.

“I can’t get arrested because they’ll take my freedom/and I can’t let them take my freedom/ momma told me to stay in school /but I ain’t ‘cause I was a fool/but now I wanna go cause I heard it was cool/ so stay in school cause it’s free.”

“I’m in jail, it’s the lack of freedom in my life. Freedom is the best. When I’m out, it’s freedom to eat what you can eat, that’s freedom. In jail, it’s no freedom, only bathroom that’s it. So I like to be free.”

THE SECRET TO  
HAPPINESS IS  
FREEDOM... AND THE  
SECRET TO FREEDOM IS  
COURAGE.

Thucydides

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