

JDC NEWSLETTER

Brainstorm What You Know

"Get good grades, stay out of trouble, respect your peers and elders, follow rules, think about your future, have faith in God."

"Stay in school."



"Stay in school and don't get in trouble. Think about your future."

"Do good in school, be on your best behavior, listen to older people's advice, always listen to your parents, have faith in God, plan on your future when you get out, change for the better."

"Some kids drop out then go to jail."

"A route that leads to adult prison."

"Going down the wrong road gets you to adult prison."

"You can't trust everyone, you have to build trust, trust is being able to keep secrets."

"It happens to troubled youth, kids can get into trouble, get suspended, enjoy time at home, then end up dropping out. Realize they aren't doing good in life, go in the wrong path, and end up in [a] juvenile [detention center]."

The School-to-Prison Pipeline

The Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring Program met with a group of young men who reside at the Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center to discuss the school-to-prison pipeline. The group was divided so that there were four to six participants working together. Each was given an illustration representing the school-to-prison pipeline, showing the cycle beginning at perceived classroom disruption, then referral, next is suspension, followed by expulsion, school failure, dropping out, juvenile incarceration, and finally adult incarceration. The participants worked together to explore the cycle and develop advice to keep a loved one out of the school-to-prison pipeline. The young men were asked to document their thinking and discussion. Below are the responses by the participants.

"I know that you can't trust everyone. Trust has to be earned."

"I have to give people trust."

"Troubled youth".

"It happens to troubled youth."

An Empowering Culture of Thinking

Question What You Read

“Is it true if you get a referral, it’s a high percentage you go to jail?”

“My community and being around the wrong people.”

“Do[es] this happen to everybody?”

“I think school is fun; when I get out I’m going back to school and get my GED.”

“That kids should stay in school and get back on track.”

“How does whoever made this pipeline know that this is the route to adult failure?”

“Why not give students a second chance not to get them in some of the places they end up in?”

“Why do females trust women more than men? How does trust relate to relationships?”

“In God we trust.”

“Why does the dollar have the word trust on it?”

“Communication is key to being a winner and getting an education.”

“Communication is the key.”

Illustrate Your Thinking

“Referral→suspension→expulsion→streets→wrong crowd→jail→death.”

“I think that if parents spend more time with their kids, they would have a 50/50 chance to be successful.”

“If I would [have] listened to my parents, I would not [have] ended up in jail, but coming here has changed me for the better and has taught me to appreciate my family and be grateful.”

“Being in the streets→hang with the wrong crowd→do bad things on the streets→end up going to jail.”

“Teachers help students learn so they can get an education.”

“Having more teachers that care.”

“Everything happens due to lack of communication in some way.”

“When you have a dollar, you can’t trust that the money is always real.”

Reflect on Your Life Story

“The pipeline is true.”

“I’m more grateful and appreciate my family more. Thinking about what I did in the past [deceives] me, because I’ve changed and learned my lesson. Have faith in God and he will never let you down.”

“We trust in God.”

“I trust my mom and dad.”

“Not thinking of the good when I’m doing bad. Bad choices hanging around with the wrong crowd.”

“The drugs made me end up in DJJ but when I was outside, I used to study.”

A CRITICAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

"I was on drugs and I got out of control so I did something I wasn't supposed to do."

"I got blamed for something that I didn't do."

"At the wrong place, at the wrong time."

"I made a few mistakes in my life, but now I know that they were bad choices."

"I'm in here for 'he say she say,' but I also made the wrong choices."

"I had to learn about who to trust and how I can help myself as a young man in the future. I couldn't trust all my friends because they tell secrets."

"It all started in the school and then growing up with the wrong crowd. I ended up in DJJ."

Rethink Your Life Story

"I am going to be with my family more and get back into sports. I am going to make my family proud."

"Things to make it better: instead of trying to fix what I've done, I could do some changes."

"I'm willing to change my life once I get out like that I could be someone in life."

"I trust my mom, sister, and dad."

"I was trying to be funny all the time, and I got myself in jail."

"Should've stayed in school."

"Stay out of jail. Don't get in a lot of trouble. Don't fight as much."

"I was young and dumb hanging around with the wrong friends."

"I'm going to have a better life when I get out. I'm going change my life to make my mom proud."

"When I get out, I'm just going to class to do good for my family."

"Get out, go to school, look for jobs, hang around more positive people, make my family and girlfriend proud, and show them I can be a better person."

"I think that if I would have trusted my brother he would be doing more positive things."



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Share Positive Peer Advice

"Keep your head high, follow rules, and be a leader."

"Start mentoring other kids, getting jobs."

"Stay out of jail, son. Do right, don't follow a bad crowd, lead your own self."

"Listen to older people's advice, always listen to your parents, have faith in God, change for the better."

"When I get out I'm going to college, then go to the NBA to make my mom proud, and get her out the 'hood."

"When I get out, I'm going to go back to school so I can play football."

"When I get out, I know I have to make a change in my life by doing better in school and working out to be on the football team."

"Get out, go back to high school, finish that so I can go back to Barber School to learn more about it, then work for somebody in a barber shop for a few years then open up my own shop."

"Sometime you have to trust in people."

"There is always a point in life where you have to be willing to change."

"I would never trust the law."

"I want to change my life."

"They all tell me to keep my head up and do the right thing."

Habit

By Unknown

I am your constant companion,
I am your greatest helper or heaviest burden.
I will push you onward or drag you down to failure.

I am completely at your command.
Half the things you do might just as well turn over to me

and I will be able to do them quickly and correctly. I am easily managed - you must merely be firm with me.

Show me exactly how you want something done and after a few lessons, I will do it automatically.

I am the servant of all great people; and alas, of all failures as well.

Those who are great,

I have made great.

Those who are failures,

I have made failures.

I am not a machine,
though I work with all the precision of a machine plus the intelligence of a human.

You may run me for a profit or run me for ruin - It makes no difference to me.

Take me,

train me,

be firm with me,

And I will place the world at your feet.

Be easy with me,

and I will destroy you.

WHO AM I?

I AM HABIT.