Prisons in the United States: Proposing a Solution to a Problem

**Rough Draft of Essay Due:** 12/5/19 (in class)

**Final Essay Draft:** 12/10/19 at 11:59 p.m. (via Blackboard)

**Total Length of Essay:** 1000 words, minimum

**Essay Assignment**:

* For this essay, you will have to propose a solution to a problem within the United States criminal justice system. Choose any aspect of the criminal justice system that you think is a problem and create a proposal with a specific and feasible solution to that problem. You should identify a person or organization that might help solve the problem and address your proposal to them. In other words, determine who might *actually* receive proposals and be able to implement them—this person or group of people will be your audience.
* This essay has 5 main elements:
	+ You must write a formal cover letter to the person/organization that might help solve the problem
	+ You must explain the problem and prove that it is, in fact, a problem
	+ You must propose a detailed, feasible solution (thesis)
	+ You must make a logical argument about why your audience should accept your solution as necessary and effective
	+ You must consider alternative solutions and opposing positions in a way that strengthens your own argument
* Choose something you really care about and that you want to change!

**Research:**

* Include **at least one** authoritative source to support your claims.
* You **must** use the Ursula K. Schwerin Library and/or library database to search for credible articles, books, and book chapters. If you have trouble with this, ask one of the reference librarians for assistance.
* Include a Works Cited page to document your sources. Remember to cite any source from the library database as an “Article from an Online Database” (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/08/>)
* Your sources might help demonstrate that your problem is, in fact, a problem, provide statistics/information regarding the importance and feasibility of your proposed solution, show alternative solutions and opposing positions, demonstrate that your solution is better than those alternative solutions, refute opposing positions, etc.