

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

Rough Draft of Essay Due: 5/8/18 (in class)

Final Essay Draft: 5/10/18 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 4 main elements:
 - 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 two** 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.

Basic Features:

- A Focused, Well-Defined Problem
- A Well-Argued Solution
- An Effective Response to Objections and Alternative Solutions
- A Clear, Logical Organization