

When I Get to Prison

Introduction

During the Fall of 2023, I sat inside the Kankakee county jail, thinking how my bad choices and horrible decisions had led me here. I imagined I would be waiting for several years before being convicted. The people around me had failed also. Their attitude was to forget about the world outside, and wait for time to go by while watching TV or play cards. The environment was surrounded by the negativity of what we could never become. The never-ending lecture was “how much exercise I will do,” “how many programs I will get involved in,” “how much I will change my life,” or “how much better everything will be, **WHEN I GET TO PRISON.**”

As human beings we postpone our lives for a better time. Why are we always waiting? When the weather is better, when next year comes, when I start my diet, when I get a new job, when I am not so tired... We don't realize that our lives are filled with opportunities, no matter the place, situation or condition that we live in.

This website is about taking action! To all justice impacted individuals, particularly those starting the journey in pretrial detention, you have the ability to transform your life. The content you will find is created from inside a jail. The resources, articles, book reports and motivating stories, are real. Written by individuals who will share their tools, and strategies to empower you to navigate successfully through your worst times. My hope is that you see this page as an inspiration, and refuse to be distracted by the obstacles that incarceration presents.

“It is never too early and never too late to transform your life”

One book at a time

www.WhenIgetToPrison.com

In jail, books are such a regular part of our daily lives that we often oversee the power we hold in our hands. A book has the ability to change our thoughts, feelings and views, it has the power to transport us to places beyond our imagination. A book allows us to hear the teachings of a person who may have lived one-hundred years ago, as if sitting right in front of you. A book has the power to show us a life beyond the walls of confinement, give us guidance and help influence our lives. Today, I want to gift you a book, that can encourage you to change your life.

Whenigettoprison.com is a website I have created from inside a jail. I wanted to have a place where people, like us, can create a profile, share our journey and have a place to publish book reports and articles. A place where we can speak out our commitment to change. In jail there are many people who lack the guidance or the support to be successful, but together we can build a community to provide tools and resources. With your help I hope to create and follow on a path, where together we can be successful.

Although in jail we have few choices, we can choose how to spend our time. This is why I want to gift you a book, invite you to create a profile, tell your story, and create a book report to be published on the website for the world to see. By doing so, you will be able to show the extraordinary efforts you are taking towards your rehabilitation. I want to help you show your judge, your prosecutor, your family and other members of our community, that your past decisions do not define who you are as a person and that your conditions do not determine your ability to succeed.

I hope that one book can be the start to changing your life. I also hope that once you are finished reading it, you can pass it along to someone else, invite them to share their experience and become a member of our community also. Take a step to pay it forward. I am committed to see you succeed and hope to be able to read your success story.

- R. Tello

- - - - - Cut along the dotted line - Mail this slip along with "My Story" - - - - -

Name: _____ ID #: _____

Facility: _____ City / State: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Book / Author you would like to read: _____

Why would you like to read this book? _____

Become a Member

Instructions

I congratulate you on your motivation to change your life and show that success is possible, regardless of your conditions and environment. By filling out the following form you consent to having your profile and information published on the website, **whenigettoprison.com**, where it will be available for the public to see your commitment to change. It takes a lot of courage to take the first step and decide to change your life, but it is through the power of resilience that we can overcome the most challenging struggles of our lives. I also want you to know that there is a lot of case law regarding “extraordinary rehabilitation” efforts. These factors that can greatly influence the reduction of sentences, have a positive impact on early release from custody, and greatly reduce the recidivism rates of people leaving jails and prison. I encourage you to continue to move forward on your journey and by inspiring others, together we can be successful.

My Story - (Profile)

The following are some ideas on how to start or work the flow of your story. If more space is needed feel free to write in the back of the profile sheet or add more sheets along with it. Although your writing will not be affected, everything will be re-typed and published on the website.

- My name is, – I am an inmate at, – former inmate of, – I am writing because I want the world to hear my story, – I became involved with this website because,
- Growing up I, – I was taught to value, – My life has been, – I made some bad choices that,
- Since then I have learned, – I am working on, – I have set a goal to, – I have started by,
- I must continue to, – I hope that, – I want to be published so,
- I want to help others to, – If I can inspire someone to,
- I want my family to know, – I want my kids to know, – I want my judge to know,
- I also want to say, – I am thankful for, - I am grateful for,
- Jail / Prison has give me the opportunity to start,

Send

Start by mailing us “My Story” form.

If you would prefer to send an email or send your profile picture to be added to your profile please send your request to: info@whenigettoprison.com

Once becoming a member of the community your profile and picture will be published within a couple of weeks for the world to see. Then you can continue to send articles or the book reports you would like to be published and to be added under your name and profile. Let your family and loved ones know to look for your profile, send it to your attorney and share it with other individuals who may want to become part of our community.

My Story



Send your profile Picture

Name: _____

Facility: _____ City / State: _____

Release Date: _____ Where were you Born: _____

Birthday: _____ Favorite Book: _____

Favorite Quote: _____

Favorite Jail Food: _____

My Journey

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines, text, or other markings on the page.

Book Report

Title: _____

Author: _____

Year book was Published: _____ Date you read the book: _____

What was the book about?_____

What inspired you to read the book? _____

What you learned from reading the book? _____

How the book will influence your life and prepare for success upon release?_____