InDepth

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InsideOUT
WRITERS

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I feel like I'm in a kaleidoscope.
I keep shifting.
People say they know me
but they really don't.
I could see their true colors
like the kaleidoscope.

Romy R.
Unit JK
Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

The following select writings
are written by students of
Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall.
In this edition, students exemplify truth
and courage through pen and paper.
Like a kaleidoscope, they write to shift
our perspectives with their words.
We are immensely proud of every
student who participated.
They are our fearless writers
and they persevered.

They can't keep me down forever.
I will always rise up.
They can lock me up and throw away the key
but I'll still rise up.
Lock me up. You hear how I said that.
Lock me up which means I will still go up and nobody can stop
me from reaching my goals because sometimes I must.

Malik H.
Unit AB

There is power in saying I don't know
because I want to know
I want to know how to control myself
If I learn this
I have power because I'll have the power to know
I'll have the power to know
Power is a home on a mountain top
Power is peace.
Power is love and security
This is power because this is LIFE.

Carlos C.
Unit J

I'll be with you in the summer.
I know that's a long time.
But at the end of the day
I know you're still mine.
Your smile lights up my day like the sunshine.
I really miss you every day.
I can't wait to come home to stay.
I love you so much.
And you know you're my bae.

Alfred F.
Unit AB

Do you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Do the people want me to do good when I'm out
or just let me be broken.
It doesn't matter what they think.
I'm going to do what's good for me.
People want me to fail but that's not going to stop me.
There's rocks and sticks trying to stop the river
but I'll keep flowing with the river.

Carlos P.
Unit D

Rising like the sun I shine.
Just like the air break I'm alive.
Through the darkest cave I'll rise.
Not even a swirling tornado can knock me off my grind.
You can blind me with your hatefulness but I ain't trippin'.
Cause I got goldmines in my backyard.

Brandon C.
Unit D

A bird locked in
can never be free
It's freedom will forever change
The caged bird yells
with a worried scream
of things unknown
but forever still
his scream was heard
from far, far away
in its locked cage
the screams were signs
of freedom.

Sergio Y.
Unit D

“I hope one day the battle is over and you’ve won.”

This was my favorite part of the poem. For me, this means a lot of things.To me, this means overcoming hardships and coming out successful. This is what I am trying to do. This battle is being able to change my negative ways. To be able to become successful in this life. The battle is looking at my past experiences and choices and using them as a positive factor.

To use this as a strength to succeed. I want to be able to come from the rock bottom and become the best person I could be. Right now, I and many others are in the battle, trying and picturing the best. We at the end need to win this battle and understand. It is up to us to put in the work and effort to succeed. There is much more we have to do in this battle.

David G.
Unit F

I am fighting for my battle to become that person I want to be in life. To become that person, I need to put energy and effort. I can not give up on my life because if I do, I may not become that person I was meant to be. I want to become a doctor but to become one, I need to fight my battle for life.

When I was young, I was scared that I was going to give up on my battle but people was telling me to fight for my life and keep on going until I win my battle and be proud of myself in life. When I get older I wanted to become a football player but I need to become that person in the field. When I say that I am not going to give up in life, I mean that I really want to become that person that everybody is talking about being that person. As I am getting older, I am fighting my battle to get a better job and a house to live. Every day, I pray for my forgiveness for what I did in the past and be a better person.

When I get out of jail, I want to be back with my family. I want to take care of them and feed them. If I get a good job, I want to become a better person. I want to stop doing drugs and making the bad decisions that I was making in the past. Every time I wake up, I pray for my forgiveness and pray for God to help me and be by my side. I want to become that person I want to be in life. I hope one day I can go to bed and smile without a worry in the world. I hope to wake up with a smile on my face and say thank you to God and that I have won my battle in life.

Carlos G.
Unit F

There was once a day where I felt at my best. It was a rainy day on the 105 Freeway. A heavy rain was pouring down the hill fast. I was driving about 60- 65 miles per hour when I turned over to see a car going into a spin. I quickly stopped to help the old couple in their car. As I'm helping them, I turn over only to see another car go into a spin. As I help them out, I quickly run over to the other car only to see one of them badly injured. I reacted quickly and stopped the bleeding with a belt I had. I pulled all 3 out of the car and waited for the ambulance to come. I felt at my best in this moment because I did something I didn't need to do.

Jesse B.
Unit EF

When I was young, I wasn't a regular kid. Some adults would say i was bad. I did everything regular kids did. I went to school, played outside, I might have gone to the library. The only thing that set me apart from most kids was that I had a temper and I liked to fight. I didn't really care about anything. If someone wronged me, I'd get revenge without a thought. Now, I don't like to fight.

Over the years, I've learned to manage my anger. I don't get angry as easily. I've had to just walk away from certain situations. I feel like in the future if I put my energy into sports instead of fighting and other negative things, I could be more productive in the world and help people instead of tearing them down.

Gaddafi B.
Unit K

Once upon a time, when I was a young boy, I was well-behaved. I was not stealing or lying. I was a very good kid and my family really loved me. But when I started stealing, they stopped caring. The man I want to be now is to be a professional football player and graduate from college to become a successful man and start my own business and have my own family. I want to have two kids and I also want to start my own clothing line so I would be able to pay for my kids to go to college. When I pass away, I want my kids to have something to remember me by and be able to pay for their kids' college. I want a family. I want to live in the hills. I want my kids to be able to live on their own and be able to be independent and do things on their own and not have to depend on anyone. I want them to be able to pay things on their own.

Anthony L.
Unit K

Perseverance means to want to keep doing something no matter how difficult. I showed perseverance one time by helping my family out with stuff that was to difficult for us to do but still figured out a way to make it work.

Jayro R.
Unit X

Perseverance is dignity and will power.
Perseverance is the force that motivates you to continue through a hard time with optimism. Hard times are fuel for strength. The experiences will enlighten you or change you most likely for the better.

Monte M.
Unit X

Perseverance means to me that you should never give up and always keep trying. It also means that you have a lot of willpower and don't quit when things are too hard.

Enrique Q.
Unit X

Self-love is when you are comfortable with being yourself.
You always pump yourself up when nobody believes in you.
I like myself because my personality is always positive.
I like myself because people have respect for me.

Darius W.
Unit X

My pain, emotional turmoils, rough experiences, and city carved me into the beast I am today. Each little blow sculpted my existence, my story. I like to embrace my hardships, those humiliating and painful moments. Getting through it all builds my confidence, manifesting this great temple of ambition and determination.

Monte M.
Unit X

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... and to our current teachers who continue to inspire, guide, and
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our current and past teachers

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InsideOUT
WRITERS

The mission of InsideOUT Writers is to reduce the juvenile recidivism rate by providing a range of services that evolves to meet the needs of currently and formerly incarcerated youth and young adults.

Using creative writing as a catalyst for personal transformation, these young people are empowered with the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully re-integrate into our communities becoming advocates for their future.

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