



InDepth
Fall 2021

iOW
InsideOUT
WRITERS

literary journal

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This Shouldn't Be

To me sometimes it feels as if there's really no hope for tomorrow
because I live in a world that's full of sorrow.

People dying and getting killed
just over a couple of single dollar bills.

Babies are being made
without their permission
and no remission.

Not knowing what's going on.

Not having a hand to hold.

People laughing at every single hurtful joke.

Famous people with big cars and living large

Then there goes me living behind bars.

Trying so hard to live largely

Brothers killing brothers

And families grieving

I really can't believe it.

I'm just a statistic

just like society wants me to be

Living in life with no care

Saying "God you put too much on me, more than I can bear"

People feeling sad

Then I'm diagnosed with bipolar disorder

just for being mad

Mad about the life I'm living

Feeling punished about what God has given me

I try to gain hope for tomorrow

Just to ease this hurtful sorrow

Maybe I should back up

appreciate the patience God has given me

Seeing will really set me free.

Kamiel P., Age 16
Unit Girls ESU
Central Juvenile Hall

What would my life be like in 5 years?

Five years from now, I would be 21 years old. I see myself in a Porsche driving around the neighborhood and all these people that told me I was not going to make it, I would prove them wrong. And when they see me, they would say, "I never thought this kid would make it in life!" And I will say, "Here you go. There's a club."

For me to get there, I need to finish high school, get a good job, and be that person I always wanted to be, so I could give my mom what she needs...

Alan E.
Unit PQ, Central Juvenile Hall

Sitting in a room, chilling with my sisters and me, I felt something was off.

I know what it means. I was kind of sad. My momma was lying there asleep.

I was three. I woke up and my mama said to go with them.

People tell me that they want me to win, but they will do anything to under your skin.

Don't worry about me.

I looked up to her like I was her fan when I lost her. I hope one day that I'll see momma again. I feel like I'm running a race, and I'm coming in hot, so get out of the way.

Momma is going to be at the end of that tunnel.

Your baby will come running to you first place.

Mikell J., Age 16
Unit Boys RS, Central Juvenile Hall

I am ruthless and untouched

I wonder when I will go home.
I hear the waves crashing.
I see the currents rising.
I want my own home.
I am ruthless and untouched.

I pretend I am going shopping again.
I feel heartless.
I worry about my future.
I cry the world will never be the same.
I am ruthless and untouched.

I understand my life choices.
I remain blunt.
I dream about my future kids.
I try not to be aggressive.
I am ruthless and untouched.

Shanveria A., Age 17
Unit Girls ESU
Central Juvenile Hall

My dream is to work at a juvenile hall or psych ward to help teens in trouble.

I want to attend Cal Poly Pomona college and study whatever I feel like studying at that time. I plan on getting out of the juvenile hall and stay sober.

Romina, Age 16
Unit Girls ESU, Central Juvenile Hall

As a black woman, I want to make sure my people get what they need and desire.

The system was created to tear our people down, so they can be dependent on the system and government. As the president, I want to make sure not only are they set for health, income, and being stable but also to be set for life with schooling. EBT, EDD, SSI, CAISNAP-- everything. So my people won't have to worry.

D.A. Sanford, Age 18
Unit Girls ESU, Central Juvenile Hall

The position of power and leadership that I would claim to make this world a better place is the president of the USA. I would want this job because I want to make a change to the earth's pollution.

Hello ladies and gentlemen. My name is Michelle and I am here to make a change to the world. Pollution is one of the biggest problems we face in the world. If we all unite by having less greenhouse gases and cleaning up the ocean's trash, we can all make a change to the earth, one person at a time. Vote Michelle as President.

Michelle H., Age 18
Unit Girls ESU, Central Juvenile Hall



My Lesson I've Learned

I won't be here for life
But I still did wrong
Therefore, still gotta pay the price.
A year and four months seem long
Never thought I'd land in this place
With the fake rumors and lies in the outs.
I'm trying to find out where it's about.
That's got me up all night
Life's hard
In court, people say things
Talking about 26's
Because them 26's
I ain't free.
Don't deal with the wrong people.
"My lesson I've learned"

Angel E.
Unit W2
Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

Forgiveness

I feel like it's hard to forgive someone if they do something that really makes me mad. Forgiveness is something that you really have to be mature to be able to do. Something I can't forgive someone for is treason. My mom taught me that's one of the worst crimes a person could do to another person. I am big enough person to forgive someone for something little. Maybe in the future I will be more forgiving. Treason to me is doing something to go against the unspoken code of loyalty like stealing from one of your close friends who trust you.

Calvin C.
Unit 91
Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

My 5 Lost Senses

Whenever I taste a cup of soda, I start to remember all the stuff I used to eat when I used to back at home. Now I can't stand all the food they give us here in jail. Whenever I feel the crusty blanket we get in here, I start missing the warmth I got back at home. I hate being here, I can't wait to make it back home. Whenever I see my cell and the homies in the room, I keep thinking, why did we all do that stupid mistake that brought us all in here. I wonder if we didn't choose to do them, would we be in here?

Whenever I heard the staff waking us up, I remember how I never had anyone to tell me when to get out of my bed. I swear I hate waking up early in the morning. Whenever I smell this dirty jail, I start missing the colognes I used to use. I start missing my girl. Damn these are all lost sense to me now because I don't know.

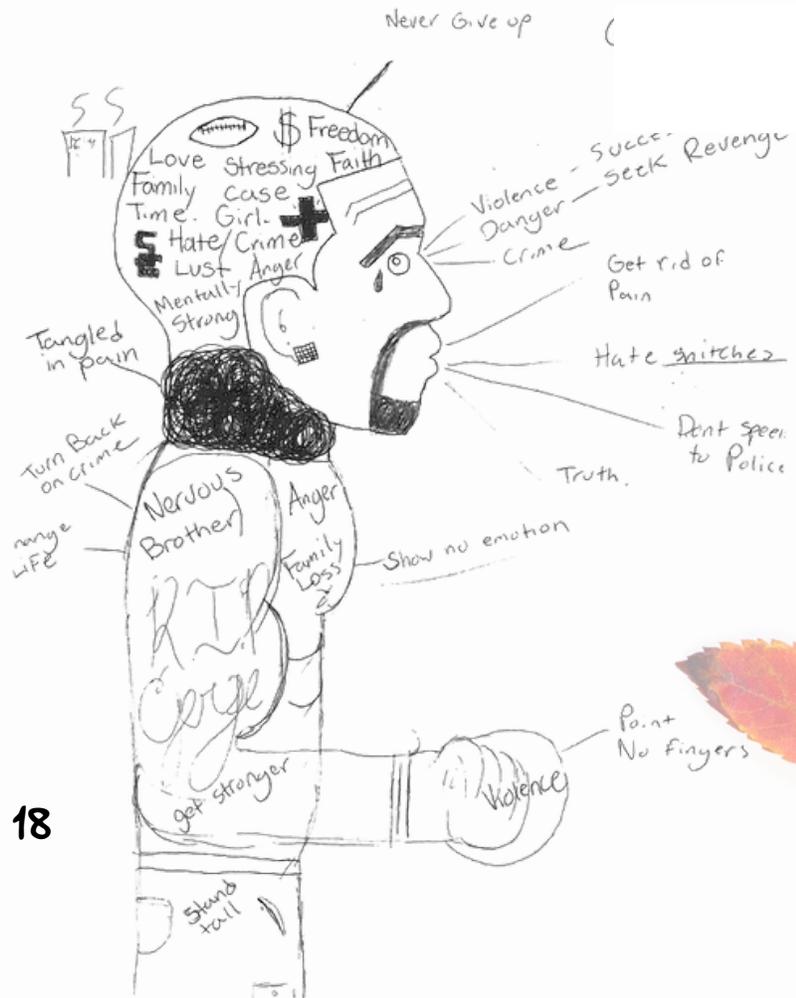
Gerardo L.
Unit 91
Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

Insideout Writers has helped me in numerous ways that I never thought possible. I was introduced to my first class at age 13 in GH at Central Juvenile Hall. When I met my teacher Ms. Roberta, her Insideout Writers class, and the way she taught her class, meant a lot to me. I was naive, depressed about my circumstances. Writing was my key to escape reality, to show others the real me.

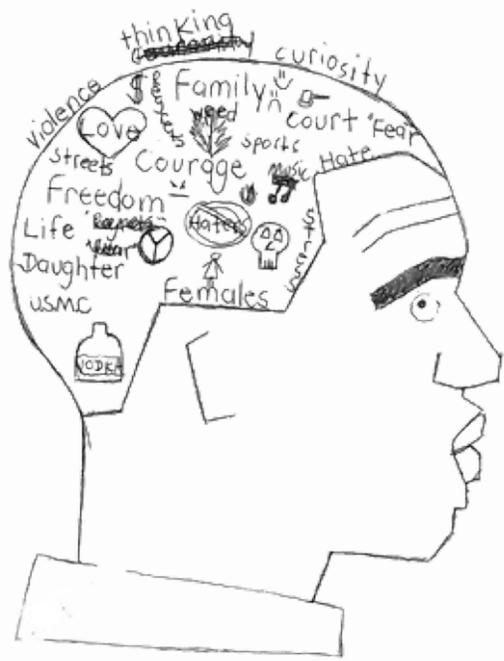
Arturo T.
Unit 92
Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall



Gabino, R., Age 18
 Unit W2
 Barry J. Nidorf
 Juvenile Hall



Edgar C., Age 17
 Unit W2
 Barry J. Nidorf
 Juvenile Hall



Untitled

I can't say it, I can't admit it.
Only God knows the lessons I've learned.
If only peace was known in the streets
there wouldn't be a reason for people to beef.
Boxes full of hate I wish it burned.

Peace right now could come in handy
I would be out if peace were around
To get away from the pain I sip on brandy.
The loss of family introduced me to a stain of pain
that always makes me feel the same.
Sometimes I want to go insane.
It's a rough time being locked up.
I realized what I've done, I've learned.
There is no money lease on peace
If there was, it would be filled by the street.

Gabino R.
Unit W2
Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We extend our gratitude to the staff at Probation headquarters,
Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall, and Central Juvenile Hall.
... and to our current teachers who continue to inspire, guide, and
encourage our students to express themselves one word at a time.

our current and past teachers

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Shelley Diamond	Gina Loring	Adam Weissman	

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This 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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