

BACS Writing Portfolio Awards 2020

Each year, BACS recognizes excellence in writing by awarding prizes to the best work completed in Academic Writing classes. This year, BACS is recognizing work by students in 2nd year Academic Writing as well as work completed in 3rd year Professional Writing. In second-year classes, themed paragraph writing, book reports, research and opinion essays, and other kinds of writing are produced in all Language Program courses (Oral Communication, Reading, Presentation and ITL Computer classes). In third-year, a variety of professional writing tasks - email, reports, CVs, and promotional writing - are completed by students. This year, 2nd year writing teachers selected recipient of the Best Essay and the Most Improved Writer awards while 3rd teachers chose either Best Professional Writer/Writing or Most Improved Writer in each of their classes.

BACS is proud to announce the winners of this year's Writing Awards. We would like to express a special thank-you to all teachers who worked with students on their writing this year.

2st Year Writing Awards

Most Improved Writer:

Mayu Haruda

Best Essay:

Sayaka Sodeyama for

"Three Reasons Prisons Should Try Rehabilitation"

3rd Year Awards for Professional Writing

In Julia Beardwell's class,

the award for Best Professional Writer goes to

Hiroya Yashima

In Tony Piccolo's class,

the award for Best Professional Writing goes to

Takumi Matsuo

In Teobestas's class,

the award for Best Professional Writer goes to

Seisho Takami

In Karen Yasuda's class,

the award for Most Improved Writer goes to

Saki Kamiya

Best Essay by a Second-Year Student

Three Reasons Prisons Should Try Rehabilitation

SAYAKA SODEYAMA

In jail, increased stress hormones can cause psychological damage such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or depression, A&E says. Moreover, Borderline Personality Disorder, which is relatively common among criminals, creates the risk of pretending to commit suicide to avoid being abandoned by others. That means that entering prison itself is severe punishment for prisoners. Therefore, prisons should be a place to attempt to rehabilitate prisoners as it helps ensure the rights of criminals, protect their families, and build a safe society.

First, prisoners should be rehabilitated rather than punished in prison because they have the same human rights as everyone else. As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, all human beings have the right to live happily. Released prisoners may not be able to live a more lawful life than they did before, according to BBC. This can be attributed to the impoverished environment of prisons, where inmates can lose their autonomy. In addition, the high conscientiousness seen in Swedish prisoners is said to be the result of the country's own prison system, which focuses on treatment and rehabilitation. As a result, it is against the human rights guaranteed by the United Nations if it becomes difficult for inmates to live a normal life after adapting to

an unfamiliar environment.

Second, prisons have to strive to reduce the financial burden on prisoners' families. At first glance, it can be seen that the imprisoned person will lose the income that previously contributed to the household. However, ASPE mentions, there will be legal fees associated with criminal defense and appeals and the costs of maintaining contact during imprisonment as well. Those costs would be borne by the inmate's kin, and what is worse, 18% of the surveyed families with an imprisoned member faced evictions or were denied housing, according to one research led by the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Forward Together, and Research Action Designs. Additionally, Business Insider cites the difficulty of getting and keeping a stable job after the release of a prisoner as a fact about job hunting. Thus, jails should work to provide financial support to prisoners and their suffering families.

The final reason that prisons are insufficient as a place to punish is that they can work to prevent second offenses. A study released by the US Sentence Commission found that of the more than 25,000 federal offenders in the USA followed for eight years, about half were re-arrested and about 25% were re-imprisoned. In Japan, people say that it is important to focus on maturity release as a measure to prevent new offenses as the recidivism rate was 48.7% of the arrested people in 2017. Improving such a serious situation, which is common in several countries around the world, will surely lead to the creation of a safe and secure country. This means that by using prisons for

rehabilitation, it is possible to reduce the recidivism rate and build a society where people can live with peace of mind.

In conclusion, jails must try to rehabilitate criminals as they can have negative impacts on the lives of prisoners and even their families, and can endanger the country. The poor environment in prisons causes mental damage to prisoners and forces them to live an abnormal life. Imprisonment requires the inmate's relatives to pay unexpected costs. Furthermore, there is a risk of allowing a second offense for those released by not taking the time to rehabilitate. Jails are not enough to provide inmates with expensive prison life because it can surely help someone in some ways.

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