

Sample Informative Essay Outline

Essay Topic: Ineffectiveness of Incarceration

INTRODUCTION

Attention Getter: The United States of America has one of the highest rates of incarceration in the world. However, statistics indicate there is a rise in criminal activity despite the high rate of incarceration. Where did the rain start beating us?

Purpose: there is a need to inform the public on how a criminal justice system that is heavily reliant on incarceration is failing us.

Importance to Audience: Incarceration is expensive to the tax paying population. Prisons are not the only viable way to deal with criminals.

Thesis Statement: Why reliance of incarceration is failing the criminal justice system.

Preview: I will discuss incarceration, indicators of its failure and other viable options that are available to reduce the incidence of crime.

BODY

I. First Main Point: What are the main ways the criminal justice system deals with criminals?

A. Sub-point: Define the meaning of incarceration.

B. Sub-point: Why do they rely on this particular method?

1. Cite relevant statistics.
2. Compare it with other methods of dealing with individuals.
3. Capacities within the available facilities.

C. Sub-point: types of incarceration facilities.

1. Jails
2. Prisons

II. Second Main Point: Incarceration hasn't reduced the incidence of crime on the streets.

A. Sub-point: there are high rates of recidivism.

It costs \$ 87.61 on average to maintain a prisoner in jail. Prisoners go back to prison as they are assured of meals and basic comforts that are not guaranteed back at home.

Interaction of hardcore criminals with first time offenders may result in the first-time offender engaging in more crime.

Proliferation of gangs within the prisons.

Inadequate policies to deal with prisoners.

Mentally ill patients being in prisons rather than asylums.

III. Third Main Point: What methods can make prisons and jails more effective in prisoner rehabilitation?

A. Sub-point: Policy change in the criminal justice system.

Segregate criminals by the nature of their crimes.

Reduce the use of harsh treatment on prisoners such as solitary confinement.

Remove mentally challenged individuals from prisons and jails or provide them with proper medical care.

Create programs that equip inmates with skills to survive upon reintegration with society.

B. Sub-point: Use other methods within the law to deal with criminals rather than taking them to jail.

C. Sub-point: Changing the social perception of incarceration.

Many people view incarceration as the most effective tool.

Stigma associated with ex-convicts push offenders back to crime.

CONCLUSION

Summary Statement: Incarceration is the most relied upon method to deal with offenders within the criminal justice system. However, it has not reduced crime rates indicating its ineffectiveness. Policy change and use of alternative methods to deal with offenders have the potential to reduce the rate of crime.

Concluding Remarks: It is possible for anyone to find themselves on the wrong side of the law. Therefore, it is necessary to create a system that is deterrent and effective in dealing with offenders and rehabilitating them.