

listen To



OUR LYRICS

**Collective Writings from students at Barbara Phelps
High School and University of Redlands**

I am Alonzo R.
I am shy, chill, goofy.
I am from South Side L.A.
I love my girl, my mom, my
house.
I am afraid of getting the
wrong girl pregnant.
I hope for me to get out of
placement.
I want to change my life in
tagging.
I am A-Rod.

I am Jesse.
I am intriguing, gullible, open-minded.
I am from United States.
I love good, decent, women
I am afraid of muttidge.
I hope for world change, peace.
I want to change new world order.
I am Jesse

I am Kendoe.
I am strong, loyal, responsible.
I am full with faith.
I've seen ups and downs.
I haven't really been around.
I have so much to accomplish,
I will.

I am Bennie.
I am intelligent.
I am from the city of crack and feenz.
(A.K.A. Compton)
I love my lil' brother.
I am afraid of my teacher.
I hope for extra credit.
I want to change the law that says
weed is not legal.
I am Bennie.

I am Jimmy.
I am chill, funny,
stoner.
I am from weed,
fights, cops.
I love weed, girls,
my mom.
I am afraid of snakes.
I hope to get out of
Barbara Phelps.
I want to get out of
Barbara Phelps
I am Jimmy.

I am Richie.
I am outgoing, I like to chill.
I am from San Bernardino, violence, drugs,
I love music, dancing and clothes.
I am afraid of anger.
I hope for a job.
I want to change mah style of writing.
I am Richie

I am Nick.
I am lonely, bored, relaxed.
I am from Impalas, parties,
smoke.
I love friends, Cali, Kaylin.
I am afraid of Chucky, myself,
the dark.
I hope for happiness, peace,
parties.
I want to change the
government, people's minds,
my hair.
I am Nick.

I am Donnel.
I am respectful, real, not
scary.
I am from gang members,
police, drugs.
I love my niece.
I am afraid of my family
getting hurt.
I hope for a successful
life.
I want to change my life.
I am Donnel.

I
AM

I am Ezzy.
 I am confident, proud, courageous.
 I am from Hispanic, fighting culture,
 and serious family.
 I love fighting, kicking it and cruising.
 I am afraid of family loss,
 future results.
 I hope for a better life in the future.
 I want to change the way people see
 my culture.
 I am Ezekiel.
 You can call me Ezzy.

I am my name doesn't matter.
 I am not like other people.
 I am from a distant planet called
 Nibura.
 I love peace, tranquility.
 I am afraid of power that is in the
 wrong hands.
 I hope for a revolution.
 I want to change those hands.
I am my name doesn't matter.
 John

I am Betsy.
 I am short, evil, fun.
 I am from a crazy, disorganized,
 house full of children.
 I love Trey Songz, Tyra, piggies.
 I am afraid of being electrocuted.
 I hope for success.
 I want to change my nose.
 I am Betsy.

I am George.
 I am very questioning,
 I like music, get bored easy.
 I see cops and gang bangers.
 I am from East Los Angeles.
 I love weed, money, girls.
 I am afraid of my mother dying.
 I hope for a future.
 I want to change my lifestyle.
I am George.

Eric
 Salvador
 Cecilia
 Jimmy
 Jesus
 Mary
 Ivan
 Nick
 Shakeema
 George
 Missy
 Alonzo
 Julie
 Roberto
 Caitlyn
 Ashley
 Samantha
 Tania
 Robert
 Juan
 Sara
 Lorenzo
 Kevin
 Evan
 Allie
 John
 Donnell
 Olivia
 Betsy
 Jesse
 Sara
 Pilar

I am Juan.
I am funny, spirit-lifter,
historian.
I am from Puerto Rican,
British, Mexican.
I love women,
family, and women.
I am afraid of God, my ex
and to die.
I hope for the cure of breast
cancer.
I want to change my life.
I am Juan. A.K.A. Dough Boy

I am Hugo.
I am friendly,
outgoing, helpful.
I am from a loved family,
gang members around me,
a crazy neighborhood.
I love my family, football,
socializing.
I am afraid of death and
losing my family.
I hope for success.
I want to change my
living style.
I am Hugo.

I am Cecilia.
I am loving, caring and willing.
I am from an arguing and honest
family.
I love shopping and partying.
I am afraid of losing my best friend.
I hope for a better future.
I want to change my attitude
toward others.
I am Cecilia.
Cecilia

Who Are You?

I am *Salvador*.
I am honest, friendly, kind of shy.
I am from La Puente,
cholos everywhere.
I love my family, my homies, my girl.
I am afraid of dying young,
loosing loved ones.
I hope for becoming rich.
I want to change my life style.
I am Sal.

I am *Caitlin*.
I am sarcastic, funny and artistic.
I am from watching TV with my dad, living with my
mom, and learning to bond with my siblings.
I love my cats, boyfriend and family.
I am afraid of getting hurt—physically and emotionally.
I hope for happiness.
I want to change someone's life.
I am Caitlin.

I am *Sara*.
I am honest, hopeful and
motivated.
I am from strippers, tourists and
indulgence.
I love family, honor
and sleeping.
I am afraid of failure, heights
and death.
I hope for success, love
and courage.
I want to change everything.
I am Sara.

I am *Evan*.
This is where I'm from.
I have two wolves
inside me.
One is hate,
anger, ego and fear.
One is love, peace,
friendship and
happiness.
Which one will win?
The one I feed.
Evan

I am *Kevin*.
I am competitive, goofy, curious.
I am from love, sports, friends.
I love people, exercising.
I am afraid of the unknown.
I hope for success, the good of my family.
I want to change my anxiety.
I am Kevin.

I am *Shakeema*.
I am shy, goofy,
helpful, friendly.
I am from
Los Angeles.
I love my mom, niece,
and brother.
I am afraid of death,
God,
lions, getting hurt.
I hope for a change.
I want to change the
world and help others.
I am Shakeema.

I am silver slipping,
sliding-
broken bottles and toothless
streets.

I am *Mary*.
These past 20 years of
breathing a gift.

I am *Julie*.
I am motherly, sweet and a
big sister.
I am from a big family,
celebrating
12th of December,
overworked parents.
I love life, family, school.
I am afraid of being alone,
getting lost,
losing my family.
I hope for change in the
world.
I want to change stereotypes.
I am Julie.

I am *Tania*.

I am understanding, caring, aware.

I am from a lot of families in one house,
little boy running around, laughter.

I love education, chocolate, my family.

I am afraid of failure, never seeing my family again.

I hope for equal education,
valid immigration reform.

I want to change the world.

I am Tania.

I am **Lorenzo**.

I am charismatic, motivated
and funny.

I am from green redwoods,
sun and the sweet smell of my moth-
er's cooking.

I love my family, my home and
my best friend.

I am afraid of close-mindedness.

I hope for equality.

I want to change the education system
so that everyone has an equal and
fair opportunity to succeed.

I am Lorenzo.

I am **Allie**.

I am loud, caring,
emotional.

I am from sports,
truck stops and Magic Mountain.

I love my mom and dad
and siblings.

I am afraid of my family getting hurt.

I hope for the people I love to be happy.

I want to change the number of people
who go to sleep hungry.

I am Allie.

I am **Ashley**.

I am determined, honest,
loveable.

I am from Barbie dolls,
orange groves, laughter.

I love my siblings, my friends,
taking chances.

I am afraid of heights, failure,
speeding cars.

I hope for a good life for my
siblings.

I want to change the
lives of children who
are abused and
neglected.

I am Ashley

I am **OLIVIA**.

I am weird, nervous, Latin.

I am from trees, dogs,
pink.

I love art, family, food.

I am afraid of failure,
poverty, hate.

I hope for a happy future.

I want to change my brother's
past.

I am Olivia.

I am **Samantha**.

I am passionate, determined,
manipulating.

I am from a quiet street, big trees, poverty.

I love school, slam poetry, my dogs.

I am afraid of failure, relapsing,
the future.

I hope for change.

I want to change the way
people view each other.

I am Samantha.

I am **Pilar**.

I am ambitious, motivational and random.

I am from Jamaica- the land of paradise,
violence, and poverty.

I love my family, to dance and to eat.

I am afraid of what my future will bring.

I hope for changes in this world where the youth will
feel safe in the streets and people will care more for
their neighbors than materialistic things.

I want to change the way in which mankind thinks.

I am the girl you see.

Pilar- that's me.

Life as a Child

As a child life was crazy
Running with sticks
Laughing, playing, and jumping kicks.
But sometimes this would lead me into trouble;
my head was always somewhere else
like a space shuttle.
Everywhere I went I caused a fuddle,
Peeing on my teacher and throwing pieces of rubble.

John

She Taught Me

These are things that I learned growing up.
When I was a little girl
mom taught me how to drive.
I learned to read books when I was five.
I learned to tie my shoes when I was eight.
My grandpa always taught me not to let
no one judge or get to me.
I learned to cook as I got older.
My mom always taught me how to cook.
She always told me I can succeed in life.
So I'm going to change my life
just for my mom and grandpa.
They taught me so much in my life.

Shakeema

Super Woman as a Mom

Here are the things I learned growing up...
I learned how to change diapers and rock a baby to sleep
while my mother worked night and day.
I learned how to sing the best lullabies
from my mother's sweet voice.
I learned how to embrace my klutzy moments,
trust me, I had copious amounts.
There are the things I ALSO learned growing up...
I learned how to cook the best mole, posole, and enchiladas
from the best cook to come out of Mexico.
I learned that living a life with a single parent was not that
bad because I have Superwoman as a mom.
I learned that my flowery personality was
not a bad thing after all.
And finally, I learned that the love of my family was all that
I needed to continue to be the person that I am today.

Lorenzo

Childhood

Life ain't no Joke

Inside me lies a three year old who saw my brother
with a crack pipe to his mouth
My father walking in and out acting as if he can't see.
My brother's homies sleeping in the floor and the couch,
even the restroom.
Now I am fifteen,
I still see my brother with a chest full of smoke.
My mom trying to be a mom now before it's too late.
Now my brother fighting for a chance of parole
Fifteen years to life ain't no joke,
When you're alone in this lonely world.

Beny



Sunny Day, Baby Chickens and Flowers

I remember baby chickens
Catching them and hugging them
I remember sun and flowers
Tall, tall grass and tons of hours
I remember happiness and grandpa on his knees to give us flowers
Cheerios in our shoes, hair and fingers
A curtain made of beads
Twisting and playing in it as my momma reads
A big dog and little dog
Bonita, tall and motherly
Chiquita, fluffy and a meanie
Chased me around like I was a weenie
Lots of candy from Halloween
Hid them from my mom because she was the candy queen



Betsy



My Life

DRUGS,, I'VE SEEN DRUGS AND GUNS AT AN EARLY AGE. I GOT USED TO SEEING DRUG DEALS, GOING ON RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME. THE ONE THING YOU CAN'T DO IS LOOK AT THEM DOING IT. THEY PROBABLY WON'T DO ANYTHING, BUT THEY WILL STARE YOU DOWN A LOT AFTER THAT. PROBABLY AFTER DRUGS YOU COULD SAY THEY PROBABLY AFFECTED ME A LOT. AFTER SEEING THAT FOR A WHILE IN MY LIFE, I WAS TRYING TO BE GOOD, NOT WANTING THAT. AFTER A WHILE I GUESS I GOT TIRED OF IT AND JUST STARTED DOING IT MYSELF. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT DOESN'T SEEM BAD AT ALL. YOU GET HIGH, GET MONEY, SOME GIRLS COME TO YOU, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE MONEY THOUGH.

RICHIE

The Light and the Dark

Inside me are two dueling sides
The good side full of family and love
And the dark side that just wants to hide.
The good side had friends and fun
That built snow torts.
The dark side had hate and fear that hurt inside me and wanted to die
The good side that played in the leaves
And roamed the hills of camp
The dark side that fought with her brother and wished she could kill
The good side wanted to play and wished to be free
The dark side wanted to tell and wished he could stop
Inside me are two dueling sides
The light and the dark
The open and the secret
The one that is free and the one that is captive
But both are inside me
And are what makes me, me.

Sara



ROCK, NIGHTMARES AND DONKEY-KONG

When I was a kid I would always play Nintendo, Donkey Kong was the best.
I was the youngest of six and we would ride our bikes, skates, or scooters around the neighborhood.
If no one would know what I could set on fire.
My dad and uncles would always play their music putting rock in my head.
When I was a kid, nightmares would keep me up, I would talk in my sleep and even go for a walk but it was always fun.

NICK



GAME NIGHT

The house was dark, and silent. From a distance I could hear laughter and feel the warmth of love fill the house. There were candles lining the furniture. Its dim light was all that kept the house alive. My mom hadn't paid the electric bill. But she didn't let that ruin the night; she sat there with worry in her eyes and a contradicting smile. She said to us, "IT'S GAME NIGHT!" She tricked us into believing the lights went out just for our entertainment. No matter how hard our situation got my mom tried her best to keep our innocent state of mind.

OLIVIA

Inside the Lines

Inside me lies a child who learned how to color inside the lines while sitting on my nana's lap.
Who soaked up the love from the family and friends who surrounded her.
Who experienced divorce at the mere age of 3
Remembering crouching behind her mother's back while her mother and father fought.
Who was forced to attend Hebrew school, while she struggled with her Jewish heritage every step of the way.
Who would sit in front of the television, endlessly watching movies as well as going to the movies to see a double feature, but only paying for one with her dad.
Who collected Beanie Babies and Barbies in secret because those were childish toys.
Inside me still lies that child, she's just a little more grown up now.

Caitlin



On my own

The day I moved in with my sister was the day I knew I had to take care of myself. Earlier that year, I was living with my parents, and we were evicted. So my parents moved out of state, and I stayed here with my older sister. **They left me with nothing.** We didn't have a lot of food in the house so I started to hustle. I knew everyone one in the apartments so I knew what product to sell. I mainly sold marijuana. I was selling a lot in one day. I was making real money at the age of 13. You would have thought that it was a dope spot for how many and often people came. My bro and me was making it. We made sure we all were able to eat and even fixed my sister's car when it needed fixing.

If I didn't **hustle** I wouldn't have survived in the streets. It got to the point where everything that I had to do was with money. All the older dudes in the apartments saw me make money and they wanted me to hustle for their hood. I could have hustled for lots of places but I said no. I was always running from the police till one day I was too high to realize we got pulled over. I was unable to run and I had more than a quarter pound of weed in my pocket, a gun, and 500 dollars. That very night I got locked up facing three felony charges. Luckily, I was able to beat my whole case and got out fast with **no felonies** on my record.

Donnel



Struggled



Hustled

Born to struggle

I struggle with my childhood because I was always home alone with my older brother. I learned bad things like how to not be a RAT and how to show the homies I was big and tough. I would always ask my mother where my dad was and she would tell me an answer I would not like to hear. Like any other kid I wanted a dad. A big struggle dragged from my childhood is I really don't like my dad because my mom left him because he used to hit her and push her around.

Alonzo

My Room

How to Sell weed and toke up,
Fights and drama,
Cops and anger,
Smoke the weed now not later.
Don't like school or my teachers. I'll go home and sit in my room play PS1 and start smoking.

My room is my place to be alone, have fun, and get away.

Jimmy



Survived

Beautiful Memories

How to tie my shoe,
How to hold a barbed wire fence apart
for my brother to crawl through,
How to bury the dead, planting trees over there skeletons,
How to plant sunflower seeds that grow as tall as me,
How to slide underneath the trampoline,
I learned that coffee scalds my father's pink arms,
That onion is best when eaten not raw,
That only women drink tea,
That the bird's special language is not so hard to imitate,
But the robin's blue eggs crack so easily,
Too easily,
The yellow yolk running down my fingers and onto my
red face as I wipe my tears running to the bathroom
where I will try to wash it away,
Knowing, that it is too late.

Mary

Nurture

Family

Getting through this Storm

We had great loving families.
Great surroundings, support, motivation, and
time-outs.
In this nation we played with,
baseball, soccer, and basketball.

Our lives were filled with joy; we had fun with
legos, video games, all of our toys.
We ate nachos, pizza, we told knock-knock
jokes.

I remember chillin' at the pool with our folks.
We learned so many things: what's right and
what is wrong,
Now we know not to hit the bong. We also
learned to be a leader and have it goin' on.

Knowledge is power,
We'll get through this storm.

Kevin and Kendoe

Dueling Sides

Inside me are two **dueling sides**
The good side full of family and love
And the dark side that just wants to hide.
The good side had friends and fun
That built snow torts.

The dark side had **hate and fear** that hurt
inside me and wanted to die
The good side that played in the leaves
And roamed the hills of camp
The dark side that fought with her brother and wished
she **could kill**

The good side wanted to play and wished to be free
The dark side wanted to tell and wished he could stop
Inside me are two dueling sides

The light and the dark
The open and the secret

The one that is free and the one that is **captive**
But both are inside me
And are what makes me, me.

Sara

My Life

Thanks to my mom I've learned to stand up for myself and be protective. Growing up was **difficult**. You would normally learn how to ride a bike with the help of your father. Well, for me it was different; my mom was the one who taught me to ride my bike. If my dad were here certain things would have never happened.

When I was living in Mexico I enjoyed myself and was happy. Up till I was five years old you could say my life seemed perfect. I thought I had the best dad ever. However, around the age of six he **walked out** on our family. That year I also noticed my **dad beat my mom**. I was too young to do anything about it and I felt helpless. After my dad left we went to a city called Juarez. Boy will I never forget that. It was a struggle because we were **very poor**. From there I learned to always value everything that I had. After a short time we moved to the United States and moved in with my grandmother. Her family sucked.

My mother was able to get a job and we moved out and I went to school. I have to admit that school here is very different than in Mexico. When we got our apartment it was the best. Everything seemed just too perfect. Then suddenly, mom lost her job and we had to move back in with grandmother.

Again, **the problems came back**. I started to hang out with the wrong people. I started to smoke weed at age 13. It felt so good because all my problems went away. I got in trouble with the law and was sentenced to one-year probation, community service, and a month on house arrest. I **finished house arrest** but violated probation. I then was given a year in a group home. To sum it up, I get out next week on the fourth. I've learned a lot here. **I now know who to hang with.**



Hugo



I'd tell her "I love you"

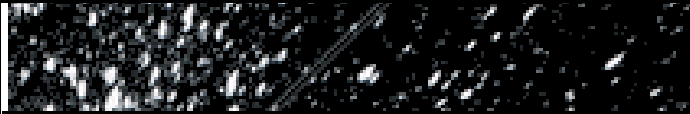
My mother showed me love and happiness and at times she showed me grief and stress, My sister showed me lots of violence but most of all she showed me hate. My sister showed how much she loved and cared for me but in our father she lost that faith, It makes me mad thinking about the past and how my mom has had to struggle. And at times my sister, she did some drugs but she was trying to hustle, The best thing in my childhood is how I used to play lots of pool. My mom came once to watch me, it made me feel happy and cool. At times, I would like to go to the park I'd stay there for a while and sometimes after dark. Playing with my friends is what I loved to do; if my mother were present right now I'd tell her "I love you". I love the flour tortillas my mom used to make My father was never there so we all call him a fake. But this is what I really wanted to know, Why my father was never there.

Salvador

Dreaming to be Young Again

Inside me like a nine-year-old girl...
She yearned for attention when her little brother was born,
She loved dancing and going to the beach
with her mom after school.
She felt the love and support of her teachers,
Her parent's strictness is a virtue and is thankful for it.
She saw the alcohol in her dad's system.
And her mom's tears over her money problems...
Her parents broke her back trying to push her forward
and keep her happy.
Inside me lies a nine-year-old girl that yearns to be young again.

Tania



I am who I want to be

Inside me lies the 5 year old girl
Dying to be seen,
Pleading to the world around me,
To just love me for me.
I knew I was protected,
But still often too alone,
Waiting up till late at night,
For my grandfather to come home.
I still remember 4 a.m. mornings
And scent of a brand new day taking the bus for an hour a day
In my blue uniform to school
Already knowing the day that awaits
The yelling, the fights, once again me kicked out of class
Masking my brain smart, hiding A's,
Secretly being teacher's pet
Because I knew education was my only escape from the streets,
from jail, prostitution and pain,
Sunday morning service kept me sane,
It reminds me of my purpose
And kept me hoping for change
The traveling back and forth between
My aunt and mom never relieved the pain
I still remember being left behind
As my dad boarded a plane to America
And my mom trying to hide me from her family
I was robbed of my childhood when I was 8
No more voice just constant fights
No one really knows about my permanent scars
My life awaits and I will be free
These words, I write do not define me
I am who I want to be
Not trapped in pain, just roaming.

Pilar

I need to Learn

I learned that you can't take back the things that
you say when you are angry.
I learned that yelling turns into fighting which
turns into crying.
I learned how one man could make people feel
so small.
These are things I learned when growing up:
I learned how much love your family can bring
you.
I learned how happy my brother and sister can
make me.
I learned to enjoy doing little things like watch
Disney movies and have so much fun.
I learned that the best food came from my mom.
These are things that I didn't learn when growing
up:
I never learned how to accept someone mistakes
and all.
I never learned how to forgive someone who has
hurt me so much.
I never learned how to be patient and how to
show my affection
There are the things I never learned growing up.
Who will teach me now?

Allie





**My neighborhood was filled with trees
Ancient houses in beautiful colors with
Large back yards to play
My neighborhood was filled with white people
Who would look at me with my Korean brothers
And white parents and wonder how
I remember biking to my friends house
And to the gas station for sweets and
Then going home and just sitting under my big maple tree
I remember mean kids calling me
Wary and chink telling me to get back on the boat
And go home and so I would go
To my Victorian home
With its quiet streets and big trees
And just listen to the summer breeze**

SARA

In my neighborhood
I hear ambulance helicopters
buses go past
I see cop cars violence, death & drugs
People out there shooting dice,
people running from the police
gang violence and more
I smelled fresh cut grass, weed, food

Moved to Redlands
Hoping everything would change
And it did
but I was never gonna fit in
'cause of my race.
But my mom once told me
Don't let nobody tell you that they're
Better than you
So I did what I had to do
Started RHS thinking
things would get better.

Shakeema

neighborhoods



“When I was young, I didn't know to hide with my family or hide from my family...”

Mary & Nick



SMALL STREET

Under a canopy of trees
Lies a small street
There are many old people
They give us treats
Dogs bark in the back yards
I tell them to shut up and throw a small rock.
The street is quiet
Except for those 2 houses
Where I live in one with my sister and brother
And 5 little children live in the other
My brother is full of sun
The front yard is all just shade
No crooks in my neighborhood
Pimps or switchblades.
Chicken laid eggs under our bushes
We wait for them to hatch
Then hide them under the cushions
My dogs are so cute
They don't even bark at the man in the suit
I ride on her back
I'm small enough so her back doesn't crack
This neighborhood is quite nice
For a 4 year old girl who never had lice

BETSY

MY GHETTO

This is my town good or bad
Some may say, wow you live
In the ghetto but I see more
I hear the bells ringing and I know
It's the paletero (the ice cream man)
I walk to school and jump
From mattress to mattress
Obstacle course my favorite game.
A liquor store on every corner,
My dad gets his beer which
Means chips and cookies for me.
There's cats everywhere
I just named her fluffy
one more pet for me.
There's that group of guys again,
I should be scared but they know
I'm little Luis. So there's nothing there.
This is my town good or bad
Where all my memories are
With cops and shots
A ghetto for many but
Home for me

JULIE

Where
..We..
Grew Up



Neighborhoods

San Bernardino
Drugs
Violence
Gangs
Money
Guns
Police
No trees
Always hot
Only black people
Projects
Two sisters (22, 23)
Brother-in-law (25)
Parents live in Kentucky
Donnel

I would walk down my block
See kids playing and having a good time,
living for the present
and not caring about laws,
skateboarding was a poison
Police always harassing with their batons
Ready for a boomin'
kids getting angry
start stealing cars at the age of twelve.
Jim got caught
And was sent to a place similar to hall,
but the madness didn't stop there
sometimes we'd go outside
Running in our underwear,
also playing with fire was extremely fun
Light stuff on fire and run.
We'd also play tag but not the traditional way
We'd throw rocks and whip each other
With long sticks of hay

John



I'm from the city of Compton
also known as the city of crack and feenz.
I remember walking down the boulevard waiting for the Metro Link.
Ice cream men getting robbed by those in need of weed.
I wake up in da morning and I look up to the sky
what do I see more shoes on da wire.
I walk down the block who do I see
My big homie Knight Train tripping out to the weed,
he tells me do you see,
"Do you see?" I turn around and see,
but nothing
but more crack heads, and feenz.

Beny

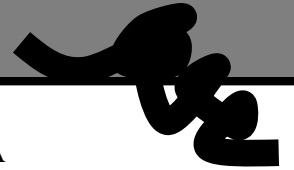
My Neighborhood & Me



**In my neighborhood I see orange groves everywhere.
Old, white people dominate the city.
My neighborhood is the city of conservatives and Republicans.
A city where rules were never broken and cops never patrolled.
The cops in my town were friendly and cool.
It was always so positive, everyone went to school.
In my neighborhood teens were supported in all their endeavors.
I was supported by teachers, friends, and family
Who cared for my well-being.
I grew up in a house of violence, but my
Neighborhood kept me on the right track.
My neighborhood kept me motivated and determined
In my neighborhood I see me.
Tall, shy and proud of where I come from.**

Ashley P.

DRUGS GANGS TREES VIOLENCE LAUGHTER SNITCHES MOTIVATION



**From LA
Mostly Hispanic and black
Decent
Lot of racial fights in school
Some gang activity
Graffiti
Brother and mother argue a lot
Brother high
Mixed family**

ALONZO

**Suburbs, ghettos, country area
Close community VIOLENCE robberies SNITCHES
Kids with NO family, moms house and community.
Really rich white folks
Lots of ChangeS, clothing and different food
This BEING my home**

PiLaR

**WE
ARE**

STORY OF My Life

All of the kids stayed out and played
Grown ups were around to keep watch
Parents got pregnant
and moved into a community
of both upper and middle class people.
Moved into a bigger house.
Crazy things that happened
there was a prison break
and inmates ran into her block.

Allie

Live to my Own Beat

On my blocks I see friends running in the streets,
Riding scooters, living life to their own beats.
Parents working, mowing the lawn
When they yell for help, I am instantly gone.
All us kids would run to the park
Playing happily until it was dark.
Once the sun went down, the teens would come out
Dressed in black baggy clothes, what was that about?
They gathered in circles, made the park smell like weed
I was told to stay away, cause they were "bad" indeed.
Our cul de sac was a safe haven from the troubles of life
Surrounded by friendly neighbors. There was no strife.
I loved my hood it was not lame
I hope it always stays the same.

KEVIN

That's My Home

Marine County

White people

Trees, Gardens Fog

Kids playing outside

Hidden secrets

Low income family living
in rich neighborhood

Safe

Hangout with friends

Hiking

Did no drugs

Good neighborhood

Fresh air

Younger sister

Younger brother

Half brother (24)

Very close to siblings

Very close to mom
Talks to best friend a lot

Lorenzo

Shaped

I was **born** in San Bernardino **raised** in Redlands
I **left behind** shooting when I was **really small**
I moved to Redlands and saw an actual gun.
Met my **homies** and smoked my **first blunt**.
I ran from cops,
Saw an actual shooting
And **fighting** became my **passion**
I had to gain **respect** and I could **defend myself**.
The **faults** that people had made me **love** my home
There is more than **drugs, violence** and **cops**.
If I follow my **passion**
I will be where I want to be.
I don't want to be the one that **runs out of time**
I know I can **change** what I want to change
I know I can **stand up** and be **brave**
But all I see are **cowards** and I want to **change**
I've **quit drugs** and **got brains** and finally moved to
another place
My teachers say **neighborhoods shape** people
I've seen people die
But I'm **still alive**
My neighborhood **shaped** me
But **I am better** than I use to be
This is **my life**
And I hope **my neighborhood** will **change**

EZZY

NO REGRETS

Ghetto, gangbangers, skaters,
stoners, crews
Influences: weed, alcohol
Walking to school:
One was safe to walk
One was safe to drive
Impact:
Good
No regrets

RICHIE

"I QUIT DRUGS AND GOT BRAINS"

In my hood, its always about surviving.

Growing up wasn't easy.

Started hanging out with homies, but they were all gang members. I came to a point where I saw how the homies were always happy. **They always had girls and money around. Not only that but they were feared.** I myself wanted to start gang banging. It wasn't gonna be easy to get in.

Once In, There's No Out.

I notice when I was around them **every 5 seconds they would turn around and look back.** I guess it was because they **didn't want to get caught slipping.** While being around them I **saw a lot of things that I won't forget.** I started to realize the **negative side** about being a gang member.

I've changed a lot.

I changed **the way I dress,** look at people. My hood was **always unsafe.**

Every time I would **hear the sirens I would think of my brother.** Damn what if something happened to him. **My brother followed my footsteps.**

Everything I did. He would do.

He himself became a member of the hood. But I talked to a couple of people and **they jumped him out.** My hood was unsafe to walk during the day and night.

Every corner there would be up to as many as **2 liquor stores.** This made the hood look very ugly. Cigarettes, liquor, beer you name it, it was sold to very young kids. Storeowners didn't care as long as they got their money. In every street you turned there would be a homeless guy begging for some change or food.

This hurt me a lot but in a way it motivated me.

I would say to myself that I could never see myself like that, in school grade wise I was good but the way it was wasn't inhabitable. **Crack heads and pimps in every corner.** My mom once told me that she heard of a guy that was tied up in a trunk of a car and burned alive.

I really hate my community.

If I had the power to change anything,

It would be,

Well everything.

Hugo

The places that raised me...

Kids chasing the ice cream man,
their only escape.

Grandma cookin' up some good food,
like eatin' love

Mom chasing the corn man,
some comic relief

The places that changed me...

Cops chasing me for causing trouble,
they had it out for me

Poverty taking control of peoples lives, wher-
e'd the love go?

You become what you are around.

It was hard, it was scary, but it was fun.

I love my neighborhood

It raised me, it changed me

Now its up to me

JUAN AND OLIVIA

Born and raised in LA

Shooting on my block
Everyday.
I remember playing outside with my friends
Watching my brother
Get high on dead ends
My mom arguing with my step dad
Over pills
That my brother took
I use to ask what's the deal
I would be scared
To keep it real
But that's my mom
I have to protect here
My brother pushed me around once for wearing red
I couldn't do anything
Other then go to my room and sit on my bed
Walked to school on my own
That is all I have ever known
Looked at my friends
They were down
Sometimes I wanted to be like my brother
Because all I wanted
Was a real Father
Use to look at my brother
He would get paid
A lot of money
F' it to live and die in LA

Alonzo

My neighborhood in Mexico is a dangerous place because it's full of cartels. You have to take care of your family and watch your back. You can't trust your friends, only family. Family comes first. People are dead because of cartels, alcohol and even people you sometimes call friends.

My neighborhood in California was in San Bernardino is filled with lots of graffiti and gangbangers. In the United States the authority has control. In Mexico there is no control.

In San Bernardino you do not have to worry about getting killed by cartels or doing things they want because you could just call the cops and gets them arrested. That's my neighborhood in Mexico and in California.

Edwin



In my neighborhood I see:
My homies house,
Someone going to pickup weed,
People smoking, fighting, yelling, and drama,

In my neighborhood I see:
Abandoned apartment homes,
liquor stores,
99 cents store,
a park,
a pawn shop,
a police station,
a library.
No positivity.

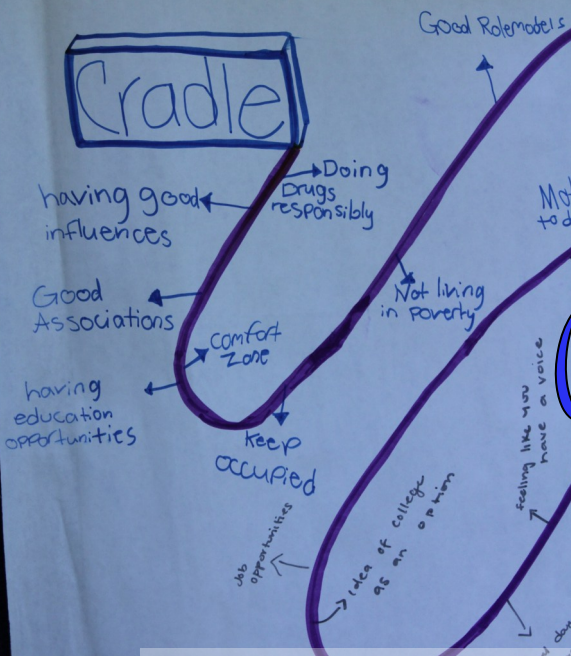
No one to help and support the kids.
Surrounded by drug dealers and cops.
No places to go except the teen center,
but I was always on the streets.
Drugs everywhere.
No one ever walked to school because no
one ever went.

Always something to do,
Having a good time.

Jimmy

Cradle to Prison Pipeline

Cradle



I'll NEVER understand

I've seen the pipeline,
I've started the walk but thanks to my
ambition to succeed and family
I made it through.
I saw friends get lost,
not being able to say no
and end in jail or probation.
I saw the violence with each other,
the fights between the Mexicans
and Guatemalans.
I never understood that
because we need to stand together
not fight each other.
I wish I could see teachers
support their students.
I wish that everyone had a family
that will support them.
But most of all I feel that the justice
system needs to try and help kids
not try and set them up for failure.
There is not just one thing that gets
someone in trouble its many things.
It's not just one thing that gets you out
it's more than that.
Education, family, religion all helps.

JULIE

Pay Attention, DO NOT Blame

Does America make good on its
promises to children and youth today?
Yes and no because
they say they're gonna keep us safe
but I don't feel safe when I'm at home
and I don't feel safe in Yucaipa
and I don't feel safe in Calimesa.
And, yes because we do have school and a
lot of opportunities.
They need to pay attention to why kids are
acting out and doing what they do.
Instead of blaming, they can ask questions.

MISSY

Government Promises

Which path do you feel like takin'?
Wealth in schools affects student behavior.
Someone chooses to be in prison and other facilities
So you have to prove your strength and loyalty.
Depending on your race and which gang group you
may be in,
you can be pushed to do things
for protection, money, or respect.
The pipeline in America is racist
and is about an economic state of rich and poor.
Unstable Government Promises
Government creating caste system.

EZZY

We all have to choose a path.

I GREW UP

When I was a Kid

When I was a kid I was privileged because my aunt and uncle always had a job.
When I was a kid I had it made because my parents had a college degree and a job available for them cuz they were honkies where honkies ruled.
When I was a kid I was privileged with a family that was secure. It was the same with me. My security wasn't from a gate but was from my friends and also the fact that my parents had enough money to send me to college and get me out of jail if and when I got in trouble.
As a kid, I was from two different places and to them I was two different people for some reason. I had the same grades and did the same stuff but in West SB I was like a nerd, but in North SB I was a trouble-maker.
As a kid, I hung out with a few different crews,; it depended on where I was. In one place I could see more kids go to college, or if not, at least have a job. In the other places , I would see more of my friends get arrested or drop out. They coulda been the same kid, and in many cases they were, but in two different places they were two different people.
So, pretty much, when you think about it, in different neighborhoods the kids get in different and even more trouble. The neighborhoods can affect the way you think and the way you approach different situations.

RICHIE AND EVAN

I grew up in two homes– one privileged, one not. Both filled with love and arguments.
I grew up in one home– not privileged, not safe. Filled with abuse, arguments, and alcohol.
I was always lucky enough to have an abundance of food. There were times when I didn't get to eat everyday.
I was fortunate enough to attend a private religious high school. I was surrounded by good friends and teachers that I could trust. I would constantly get suspended, over and over again. I felt like my teachers would judge me. My friends were like my family.
I am studying at the University with the help of financial aid and the people who supported me.
I am working on getting off probation because I didn't have enough money to survive.
When I smoked weed, it led to nothing.
When I smoked weed, it led to fights and trouble with the law. But now we stopped smoking and we are on a pipeline to success.
In the future, I want to own a business.
In the future, I want to be a chef.
In the future, we both want a family.
In the future, we both want to be wealthy.

Donnel & Caitlin

World of Lies

A lot of promises have been made to all the children in America today.
America has kept some promises by all kids having an education. But the promise isn't kept equally, some are left wanting. Differences in wealth, race, and surroundings can affect the number of opportunities available to them.
Some people don't care about the future for children, which makes some children fall through the cracks while others are left to succeed.
America needs to care more about the children of America, so they can have a chance.

Aaron and Sara

Which path will you choose?

Unfulfilled Promises

America makes good promises but not all are fulfilled. We are promised equality but it goes unseen. What happened to change, freedom, equality, and jobs? How about friendships, family, and the safety of all?

We are promised food, vacations, and all the entertainment in the world.

The graffiti is seen as art as people drive through the dark.

We just hope this world becomes a better place. Why can't everyone just get along? Putting people in jail does not decrease the crime. People come out and go straight back to the crimes. Families become broken as children roam the streets. A lot of people are searching for jobs because of how competitive it is. Everyone currently in search for friends. People can be fake and wear the false smiles, but on the inside we can still feel the dislike. There are a lot of people still homeless and we hope they'll succeed, we hope they will get everything they need. Just like them, we are all in need of food, but with no money or jobs what should people do? In order to get jobs a diploma is needed, but no one wants to do homework so instead we cheat, take short cuts to get it all done. We have all those promises for changes in order to succeed. Why can't we all have equal opportunities and all be free.?

Shaakeema, Pilar, Betsy

Prison



The idea of prison is pointless— it's like timeout. People who commit crimes like burglary need money. If money was easiest to obtain, less people would have to steal. If you do a crime you should have to work for your punishment, like build a house for a bum. Prison costs too much to house inmates — that money could be used for our education. The courts and laws are unfair. Cops can get away with murder and beating kids. In this society, morals are valueless. Make people realize how much money is being spent on keeping inmates locked up.

Robert

You are your life

You are your life. You make the decisions to decide where you are in life. I'm on the pipeline to a good path. I mean, my past is not the best, but nobody's perfect in life. I got into my pipeline by watching what goes on and learning from my mistakes. Well, I have left the pipeline I was previously on. I have moved on. Also, I think it will affect the pipeline to my adulthood because it makes me stronger and it's more of a motivation for me. My experiences are something like a lot others had been through. It kind of relates to the thing known as the privilege walk. It explains that life is full of surprises. Nobody is perfect and nobody is better than anyone else. Depending on how you grow up or what had been given to you as a kid, or what environment you grow up in reflects the pipeline or decisions you make in life. What gets me the most disappointed in life, is seeing the look on others faces— the one that says you have passed up your life completely.

Kasey

AMERICA THE UGLY

America: the ugly land of selfishness and greed.
All that people care about is how they can succeed.
All I hear is change, change, change, but colored men, women
and children are on still on their knees.

You might say "no!" we have a black president,
but all he is in favor of is stocking his cheese
not caring about the problems Americans have to face not
everyone is treated equal.

Big brother is always watching,
no time to spread our wings,
because we're born in coffins.

JOHN

My Friend

Drugs can negatively affect a person's life. Now, I won't say always because I have seen some people turn their life around and put their past behind them. Weed is a drug that I have seen destroy the lives of many of my friends. I had a friend in high school that began to smoke weed freshman year. He would probably smoke at least once a week. He did not control his habit. He let the weed take over his life. Soon he began to try other drugs like crack and meth. His studies also went down the drain and he eventually dropped out of high school. His life today is not what it would have been if he hadn't had let drugs take over his life.

Lorenzo

Privilege

Privilege— It's a nine letter word that seems to define us as individuals. We are either privileged or not privileged— there seems to be no in between. Yes I have lived a privileged life in the sense that my parents were always there, I was given a great education and I always had enough food to eat.

However, I have had to go through a lot — nothing has ever been handed to me. I know what it is like to hurt and struggle.

From the outside you may think I have it all, but in reality my life is like a house. When looked from afar it is perfect, when seen up close all you see are the crack and imperfections....

Ashley

Waiting for the End

Once upon a time in my neighborhood there was a boy. He was sweet and a great big brother. He played with his littler sisters and all the kids at school loved him. His teachers looked forward to having him in class. His mother cherished his life more than her own. But no one knew he was fighting an evil storm within himself. At a young age his father was taken away and for the rest of his life he vowed to look for him. He searched high and low. He looked and looked.

Once upon a time in my neighborhood there was a young man. He was thin and sickly. No one wanted him around anymore. He smoked, and shot up, and hurt everyone around him. His mother cried and cried. His little sisters no longer had a brother or a mother. That boy that was once sweet is now sour. He's locked away for three more years. So now we must wait for the end of the story.

The pipeline has pushed that sweet boy into prison's path. He chose drugs and poverty over family and school. Maybe in the future there will be a pipeline to success.

OLIVIA

My Everyday Life

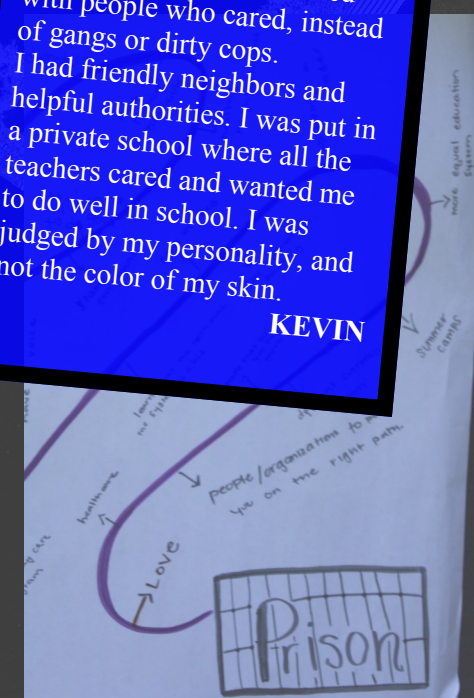
Where I grew up you are most likely to get in trouble and to smoke weed and fight and get caught up by the cops, so your life starts off right in the middle of the pipeline. And most people who don't get out of it in time just go in and out of jail and you just can't really change once you made it to the bottom. I think that where I am now is on the pipeline to prison. The way I got on that pipeline starts with where I grew up and that I started smoking and fighting. I can get off the pipeline. And I am trying. I can get off it by staying in school and not getting caught up by the cops. I know that sometimes it can be hard to get off the pipeline to prison, cuz on it is how you can grow up. The people in my 'hood can be a bad influence on you, so I was taught that this is just going to be the way I live. Weed is just a way of life for me 'cuz where I grew up everybody was smoking and I started buying it and it just ended up being a part of my everyday life.

JIMMY

My Blessings

I was born into a pipeline to success because I was blessed with a loving family and enough money so that I did not have to worry about getting enough food, or shelter. My neighborhood was filled with people who cared, instead of gangs or dirty cops. I had friendly neighbors and helpful authorities. I was put in a private school where all the teachers cared and wanted me to do well in school. I was judged by my personality, and not the color of my skin.

KEVIN



Do Your Best

They tell everyone to try their best
and you can be great
but it's just that way for the people that are actually great.
Kinda creates a caste system
Just like if your low income or middle class
you're probably gonna stay in that class
unless you find a good job
or you're good at school.
When you're in a prison usually
you have to join a gang,
but that's not how it starts.
It usually starts with
who you make friends with and
you just become an affiliate
and how gang active you are
will determine if you are in the gang when you come out.
But if when you're in prison your group gets into a fight,
you gotta fight with 'em
You will get time added to your sentence and
they will keep you in the system.
I think people in America do not follow the law.
Some people believe that going to school is not the smartest
choice because it could all be a waste of time
so they are better off breaking the law to
make money and support a drug using life.
Maybe it's the system's fault
for only appealing to
the people who they believe will be most profitable.

NICK

Once Upon A Time

Once upon a time in my neighborhood
there was pure negativity.
I only saw crimes, gang violence, and dirty cops.
But that doesn't mean I like it that way.
I hope sooner or later it can change.
I hope that they have good families
so they have the best support they need.
And I hope the city provides more jobs
so the poverty stops.
There's better schools so kids could learn
instead of dropping out.
Better laws and safety
so we put end to criminals and crooks.
And stop the drugs that way
our neighborhoods are safer.
That's the way I feel about my neighborhood.

IVAN

Destined To Be

When I was born, I had a life destined to be worry free.
My parents always told me that "education is the
key."
My school was so strict, I even had to ask to go pee.
Cops never bothered me, they let me be me.
I worked hard in high school, and now I am in college
paying a big fee.
I can be a doctor, a lawyer, or whatever I wanna be.
I wish that people would wake up and see that not
everyone is on the same pipeline as me.
Other people have a lot to give to society.
Not just people born into a life of privilege like me.

ALLIE

THIS A SCHOOL

MY REALITY, MY DREAM.

I remember going to school always getting strip searched. I felt like a fool. They got me taking off my shoes even my socks got me shirtless. Felt like I was back in the hall.

What's my dream school? A school that helps people know what they want to do as a career. No security, no probation officer coming to your school. Have a class to help pass exit exam. Have a lot of fieldtrips to fun places and I'll be the principal and have a night club.

- JESUS

WHAT A DISTANCE BETWEEN THE TWO

My school experiences were bad . They always suspended me for any little thing I did. It's like they were messing with my emotions but I love the fact the teachers were more flexible.

My school experiences were mixed. I switched from school to school. Never really finding a place to settle. But I love how I could get along with my teachers.

I loved running away from security when they chased me with their little golf carts. The funniest part is when I hid from them and they would pass by and we would throw dirt.

I hated the crowded halls and over-worked teachers who were too tired to care. But I loved how they promoted the arts and all of the good times in band.

Everywhere there was tagging and if you were to go to the front of the school. It looks like an abandoned building.

- BENY AND SARA

THE DON'TS, AND THE DON'TS.

My school is like, a little juvenile hall, because they make you ask, for every little thing you do. You get in trouble for talking. You get in trouble for contraband. You can't even bring a soda in here, without it being closed. You can't chew gum. You can't tag on paper! You can't wear team logos. You can't laugh loudly. You can't come late or else you can't eat. You can't use the restroom when you want to. You can't bring hats. You can't get up, when you want. You can't bring candy.

- GEORGE

MY SCHOOLS

North SB
Skaters
Stoners
White People

West SB
Drugs
Gangsters

- RICHIE

METAPHOR HEAVEN

School is like a trailer, it's a drag.

School is like china, over populated.

School is like a new toy, you love it at first, but it gets old real fast.

School is like a stop sign, you know you have to stop there but you don't want to.

School is like a bad movie, you just want it to be over.

- ERIC

PREJUDICE

My last school was prejudiced to me as soon as I arrived. I had got kicked out and went to Citrus, but as soon as I started the teachers assumed I was a troublemaker. I would act up because they wouldn't let me do things like go to the bathroom.

They did not expect me to do my work. They'd give me less privileges.

Because they thought I wouldn't do my work, they did not bother to help me or take the time to see what work I needed to do. My principal did the same thing. He assumed I was a bad kid and he treated me like one.

- ROBERT

OR A JAIL?

METAPHOR HEAVEN

NON-STOP PARTY

My school was like candy and cake
a party in your mouth.

My school was like an airport
racially diverse.

My school was a nonstop party,
Fridays at lunch there would be
big speakers blasting music.

I knew almost everyone,
people at my school were friendly,
of course there would be some fights
but what's a school with no fights?

- BETSY

"TOO SCHOOL'D FOR COOL"

School is like toast, you
always need to butter your
bread.

Only whom you know or
hang around, will one day
maybe be the good friends.
Being in school means you
must put up and do what is
asked of you.

Everyone or most people at
my school would just try to
relate or stimulate to help
one another. I think this is
just neutral because of the
way it's expressed and it's
what most people do. It's
like a kid who has a lollipop
and everyone else wants the
same lollipop.

- JESSE

HINDSIGHT-LOVE

My school was like a family they were
always there to make sure I did my best
for the most part.

Teachers played favorites. I once got a C
because I had a "bad attitude" despite the
fact I got A's on all the tests. The after-
noon was my favorite time of the day,
two hours every day with my friends
from four to six.

Odd classes that had no purpose filled the
day, basket weaving, veil painting, every-
thing. These pointless classes shaped me.
When I would fail, my teachers would
talk with me, make plans for success.
Failure was not an option.

School was a place I hated at the time
But I appreciate it now.

- KEVIN

LONG AND PAINFUL

School was like work,
you clock in and turn off your brains and do what
they say as best as you can.

School was like a family,
you're told the rules and then you figure out
how to break them without getting caught,
you know who you like and try to have fun.

Your friends are there

And they're your brothers and sisters.

School is like the dentist,

a big waste of time, some pain, someone you've
never met talks to you like they care when they just
want to get paid, and it's supposed to help later in
life.

-NICK

MY SUFFERING, MY BITTERNESS, MY LONELINESS; I'M NOT GOING TO LET IT
GET ME DOWN, I'M NOT GOING TO LET IT TURN ME AROUND

KIDS IN CAGES

My school was like a giant rat cage. Your staff would test different things to see what the effect would be. It never made things better things only got worse. Kids became mad because they couldn't do what they want. They were force fed and made them feel dumb.

My school was like a jungle as tamed kids had to obey their masters. When they were disobedient teachers would send them away. They had no choices or freedom because the police officers were always around watching to get everyone in trouble rather than keeping us safe.

My school was filled with non-stop lying to try and please us in the moment. Information never mattered and didn't help in the long run. Teachers, principals and on campus police would lie about their lessons. Information constantly left out as they would teach us their views.

My school was like standing in front of a jury. I never had a say. In no means was it a democracy because you can never get together to say what you want to say. We could never say what we want to learn we just had to do what we were told.

My school was constantly monitored with cameras everywhere. Police roamed everywhere trying to get people in trouble.

-NICK

MY SCHOOL

What is school like to me...?
Summer school,
The kids that rule,
And the county food.

What was school like for me?
Football fields,
Basketball games,
And bullies that were really lame.

What was school like to me?
Theater
Mean teachers
And the trash behind the bleachers

What was school like to me?
It's just like jail,
The classes you'd fail,
And that long ass bell.
That was school for me.

The fights
The riots
And groups were racially biased
That was school for me.

- MISSY

NOT THE ORIGINAL

School is like Asian rice
White all over,

School is like generic food,
Not as good as the original.

School is like ESPN,
Sports are your way out.

School is like a cooking class
Full of pot.

School is like a pen,
Too many "clicks"

School is like braces,
it's shity at first but
GREAT after

- OLIVIA

METAPHOR HEAVEN

My dream school would be a place where all students are treated equally. Where the teachers are honest and fair and inspire us to be more. It would be a place where everyone gets along and work together to have a positive future. It would have variety and we would have the ability to make choices without consequences.

ASHLEY

My dream School...
It takes poor kids and tries to get them to go to college.

TANIA

Students should choose their schools

Students shouldn't get kicked out

School starts at 10 AM



FREEDOM

No dress code

My dream school would be a school that has a two hour off campus lunch and teachers that don't over rule students and aren't power hungry and tests given by voice at the end of class to determine if you have homework.

NICK

Hands-on teaching

Caring teachers

Different discipline policies

Smaller class sizes

My dream school would be whatever you want to do at lunch do it and eat any food you want. They will have any food and whatever drinks you want and everyone is cool with each other and there is no tension.

KASEY

My First Suspension

The first time I got suspended it was for a fight. I fought this guy named Michael, and I should have been SMARTER and CARED about the consequences. I got suspended for 3 days and the other guy only got 2 days. We both fought and we should have got the same punishment. It was at the beginning of the semester, so being gone put me behind in my grades early. The reason was because my group of friends got into it with her friends and he said something to me and for that I wanted to fight him.

Robert G.

Reality of Students

Just because schools have policies or they have consequences for bad behavior doesn't mean that the students will change. They say you're not suppose to bring iPods, phones, knives, drugs or any type of object that can harm you but also just because the schools have security guards or metal detectors doesn't mean that the students aren't going to manage to bring it in. Like for an example a knife doesn't have to be made out of metal it can be made out of any type of pointy object and metal detectors don't detect everything. Just because you get suspended or expelled doesn't mean that the problem will stop. If that person still wants to do negative things then he/she is going to do it.

George

What Schools Should Be

Schools could be safer by giving opportunities to change classes and join sports. They should give you a chance of help you if you have bad grades. Change the time school starts so we will be fully awake and active to do our work. More respectful teachers so students see the teachers is trying. There needs to be a relationship. School staff needs to find out the reason students fought. Staff should contact parents and talk about issues. Students should talk to counselor. "The first time I got suspended was the first time I got drunk" Instead of suspending students there should be internal suspension and equal consequences; punishment should fit the crime. Punishments could include after school cleaning if littering or destruction of property. Consequence for fighting would be to go to counseling and talk to the person you talked to. If you violate dress code you should have to wear ugly school clothing. There shouldn't be a zero tolerance policies. Staff should talk and figure out the problems. Sometimes people break dress code because they are wearing what they have. Kids can't help it if their parents can't buy them new clothes. "I got in trouble because my teacher said he was gonna choke me so I made a fake gun and then I got suspended; HE threatened me but I was the one that got in trouble."

Ezzy, Ivan, Pilar and Olivia

Working Things Out

I think that if a student breaks the rules, the administration should at least try to talk to them and understand the reason for this problem. There are many cases where it may not have been the student's fault for getting in a fight. I believe this relates to one of the root problems with schools: that there are not enough teachers to give ample attention to the kids. In my high school there were only 150 students, and we knew most of the teachers as friends. When fights would break out, which they rarely did, both the administration and kids would work out a punishment together. Because most problems were worked out before they got too intense. More personal attention is needed.

Kevin

Why I go to Barbara Phelps

I didn't like getting up for school so I just didn't go to school. After missing 20 some-odd days of school I had a meeting with my principle. He said, "Eric, you've been missing a lot of school, If this continues we have to put you on contract." It continued. I got put on a start contract and missed around 15 more days. Then I got SARBed, which is when your parents have a meeting with the school board. At the meeting I had a note that said I needed to be homeschooled because of medical reasons. I then got put on RISE (Redlands Independent Study Education). After 5 months of RISE I got sent back to RHS. I was on contract and ditched like 15 times. Another SARB meeting was scheduled but I didn't go and I said my grandmother was under the weather . Next day I went to school and my classes were dropped and they said I had to enroll in Barbara Phelps. I didn't think this was fair because some people aren't morning people and they should have P.M. classes. Honestly more students would go if classes were at night. Now I'm at Barbara Phelps and it's whack.

Eric and Allie

THE SCHOOL BUSINESS

I remember talking to a friend of mine who went to rehab and he said he saw a lot of people from my school there. On the one hand I made sense because our nickname was "weedward" Also it made sense because most schools don't give a shit about helping their kids with their problems, they just care about pushing them out. Whether they're literate or not, addicts or not. That's why I don't think schools are in the education business. They're not even in the rehab business. My school was in the boot camp/military/college business. But not all are like that. Everyday I drive or walk by Redlands High School and I see cops on corners. Because they're in the prison business.

Evan

THE BEST SCHOOLS CARE

The best way for schools to keep students safe and be a good space to learn is if there is respect and care. If the teachers disrespect the students, the students will in turn disrespect the teachers. This will cause problems such as disruption in class, disrespect among other students, maybe leading to fights and talking back to teachers. You cannot cultivate good relationships and learning environment without respect. Care is also extremely necessary. I went to a school where everyone including office staff cared about me. There are so many teachers I could honestly have a heart to heart with, because there was mutual respect and care. A lot of teachers now a days care about money and test scores so kids are purposely being pushed out of their schools and are being set up to fail. If teachers cared about their students, more students would be staying in school, trying their best to learn.

Caitlin

My Friend Turned Enemy

In 2009 my friend and I were very close friends, until we started high school freshman year. So when we started high school he just started acting different in front of different people and saying some disrespectful stuff behind my back. So when I heard that I didn't believe it until he said he did so we didn't hang out with each other no more. We were now enemies. He told my cousin that he wanted to fight me and I said "Its nothing." So when I saw him by himself one day I fronted him and asked him did he want to fight me. He got scared and said no because he was by himself, so I just left him alone. So the next day I went to school and he was with his friends, and I was by myself. Then he said he wanted to fight, and I laughed at him and told him its nothing and we fought.

Mikqual

I. Confrontation

Two girls are standing
in the lunch line.
One brushes
against the other

“Bitch, watch where you going!”
“Shut up!”

SLAP

They start to fight.
The security guard
breaks its up.
Both girls get suspended
and a ticket.

II. Problem Solved

Two girls are standing
in the lunch line.
One brushes
against the other

“Bitch, watch where you going!”

“Oh sorry, it was an accident.”

“Whatever, don’t let it happen again.”

“Okay, my bad.”

*Shakeema
Samantha
Missy*

Kids Aren't Criminals

Kids today are getting suspended and expelled way too easily. For the smallest infractions, the greatest consequences happen. We need to change the system so that the real problems can be handled and the good kids are treated fairly. The punishment should fit the crime and the intolerance is just making things harder. We need to listen to the kids instead of assuming they're criminals. And we need to find appropriate consequences that aren't counterproductive and fun. And we need to listen so we can truly help.

Sara

Bombs Are No Joke

By the time I was in 9th grade, I was living in Massachusetts. That spring, my friend Tim was arrested back home in Florida. Tim was a clown, in and out of trouble, but too sweet to do much damage. His mother was out of the picture and his dad struggled to keep a job and stay sober. Tim hung out at our house a lot, and my mother began to suspect that he had a learning disability no one had ever bothered to notice. He didn't read at an appropriate grade level, and it was hard for him to stay engaged in school. He was in and out of the alternative school, but he made a serious mistake in 8th grade. Tim joked about “making a bomb” during one of his classes and was put on house arrest for a week. I love Tim to death, but he doesn't have the patience or the brains to actually make a bomb so it seemed especially ridiculous that the teacher took him seriously (for the first time ever). Tim's house arrest was the same week that his class was reviewing for the FCAT, the test all 8th graders in Florida have to pass to enter high school. It was a near miracle that he passed the 8th grade, or perhaps just a testament to Florida's low standards. To this day, his record hasn't been expunged so he can't join the military, police force, etc.

Man

Cuca's

This is how I got expelled this year. I wanted money and I saw this guy every now and then. I noticed that he had an Ipod touch. I already had one, but I wanted to steal it from him so I could sell it. Then, I could start selling drugs to make money. So I socked him on sight at Cuca's. The next day I saw him in the North Campus office, so I already knew I was going to get caught. I was about to ditch but that would've caused more problems. I decided to go to class, then they called me to the office. I just told them yes I did it. So now I'm stuck at this school.

Richie

The Day That Went Bad

My teacher was yelling constantly in class at other students, because they were out of their seats and talking. She took our 10 o'clock break away, because of those students. I didn't like that, so I walked out of the class and off campus. She suspended me for that. It was not fair because she took the break away from everyone instead of taking it from the person that got the class in trouble. She should have done it individually instead of as a group punishment. She should have talked to me and asked why I left instead of just suspending me.

Matt

Anger in Class

My friend got suspended for calling the teacher a B—, because she didn't let him use the restroom.

He responded, "I'm going to still go anyways."

Teacher: "No, you're not going and if you don't listen, get the F... out of my classroom."

Student: "F... you B—!"

People were just leaving and walking around the school, so they were abusing their privileges.

The kid got suspended for disrespecting the teacher, because he couldn't manage his anger.

He had to stay home and he ended up missing his test, so he ended up failing his class.

Beny & Tania

We Were Sitting in a Circle...

So my friends and I like to sit in circles to chill and inhale THC filled smoke. We do this in a lot of places, almost anywhere without people, cameras, or parked cars with people in them. One day we were in an empty neighborhood on the sidewalk grass, when a lady came out of her house with a camera saying she's taking pictures, so my friends and I quickly booked it out of there. Then about two days later we were chilling at KFC when the same lady pulled up in her car, but we didn't know this, and started recording us smoking. Then when the first bell rang, we went to class. I was pretty relaxed up until third period when I was sleeping and my teacher poked me and told me to go with him, and pointed at the security guard who searched me last time someone snitched on me. So they took me out, searched me, and took all I had. I was the first of my friends. When they brought my friends in, I mouthed, "I'm fucked," but they couldn't read my lips, so I said it out loud so the office could hear.

Nick

Juvenile Justice

The juvenile system should not be able to disrespect kids by being all in they face. But they should talk to them about people's lives because some people go through so much in life. Juvenile hall should talk to students about their lives and help them out a little bit. When the juvenile hall people do talk to them, many people will get out, change their life, get jobs. Or some can go back to the same thing. Some kids are not giving a damn.

Shakeema

When you're in Juvenile Hall, you have a lot of time to think. You can realize about all of the opportunities you have because you have time and are sober. While there are choices, it is often up to you to man up and straighten your life out. If you do man up, there are teachers available to help you get certificates and your GED. Those who don't step up are just wasting their time and are wasting opportunity, and are more likely to get in the adult system. Some motivation that could help kids stay out of Juvenile Hall is to remember what it was like to sit in that small room most of the day.

Jesus and Sara

Behind Bars

Juvenile Hall teaches how to become a slave.
How to take orders as one goes about their day.
That being tough is the right way.
Being rebellious will keep you safe
and ignoring authority will keep you sane.
Rules, orders can never be ignored
No respect, Not knowing what to care about
Turn to alcohol, homemade is the best
Another thing you learn locked up in the cell
Gang banging, surviving in the streets
What can Juvenile Hall do for me?
My life isn't a waste but that's what some learn
No one should be learning how to make
weapons from scratch.
Instead how to care and respect others
Learning that life is not a waste and
that there are opportunities out there for all.
Learn how to keep safe and off the streets
and out of jail
How to survive by being drug free
There is a balance between bad and good
How about teaching us how to succeed in school.
Hey we never learn that not all tattoos are safe,
we learn how to follow rules
That only drives us insane.
We want to learn how to turn our life around
Right from wrong
So we don't end
up buried too early
beneath the ground.

**Edwin and
Pilar**

A kind parent doesn't incarcerate its children.
A good parent wouldn't give kids a cruel life style.
A parent should be loving and helpful
But Juvenile hall is nothing close to helpful.
Cells, bad food, cold showers, disrespect,
surrounds this home.
They don't give kids what they need to change.
They don't show support or believe in them.
They treat their children like criminals
with no way out.
They're stuck in a cold dirty cell, with no privacy
When showering or using the bathroom.
The system they have is no help,
Until they change how things are,
The children will not either.

Joseph and Julie



Juvenile Justice

When they charge somebody, it shouldn't be just because you were the person who really did it...shouldn't be charged for association.

—Olivia and Ezzy



Juvy and It's Flaws

I think juvy has a different affect on different people. Some kids could depend on it if they don't have much resources at home. Some kids could go in and think they're already at the lowest, they can't go much lower, so they say screw it and stay the same. For some kids, they may realize that their life is being screwed and they need to fix it. It all depends on the person. The government. needs to make juvy a better place to discipline by at least making it more like a home. To most kids, juvy is a bad place for the bad kids and everything is shitty. I think they should at least make it a nicer place to stay. Warm shower water, more privacy, better food, and places like where Andre went would probably be huge few steps.

Dallas

Just a kid,
He acts tough on the outside
But internally
He's scared as shit,
He hides behind tattoos.
Behind a hard outlook,
Behind fighting,
Behind drugs,
So all people see is what he chooses to show,
Not looking in the inside but through cloudy windows
So before you choose to judge this kid like an adult
Remember all the things he's been through
That aren't his fault!

Samantha

What do you think kids learn in the juvenile justice system?

Wake up, eat, read, eat, work out, eat, sleep
Wake up, eat, read, eat, work out, eat, sleep
My life is a routine,
independence is my dream,
but this is my reality.
I learn that I am worthless,
I learn that I can't be productive,
I learn to not give a damn.
Seven years in this place,
and my memory is fully erased.
independence is my dream,
my life is a routine
wake, eat, read, eat, work out, eat, sleep.
-Tania

A Very Pissed Off Latino

A child does not deserve to get locked up,
It seems pretty messed up,
Why can't we help then get out?
It's an internal issue, I have no doubt.
Day after day children go in,
That is the day they lose their grin,
When they get out they tend to come back
Successful resources is what they lack.
There they go back in their cell,
Always going to be categorized as a fail,
When will this injustice end?
It is the day children will not have to fend.
A child does not deserve to get locked up,
In all reality it seems messed up.

-Lorenzo

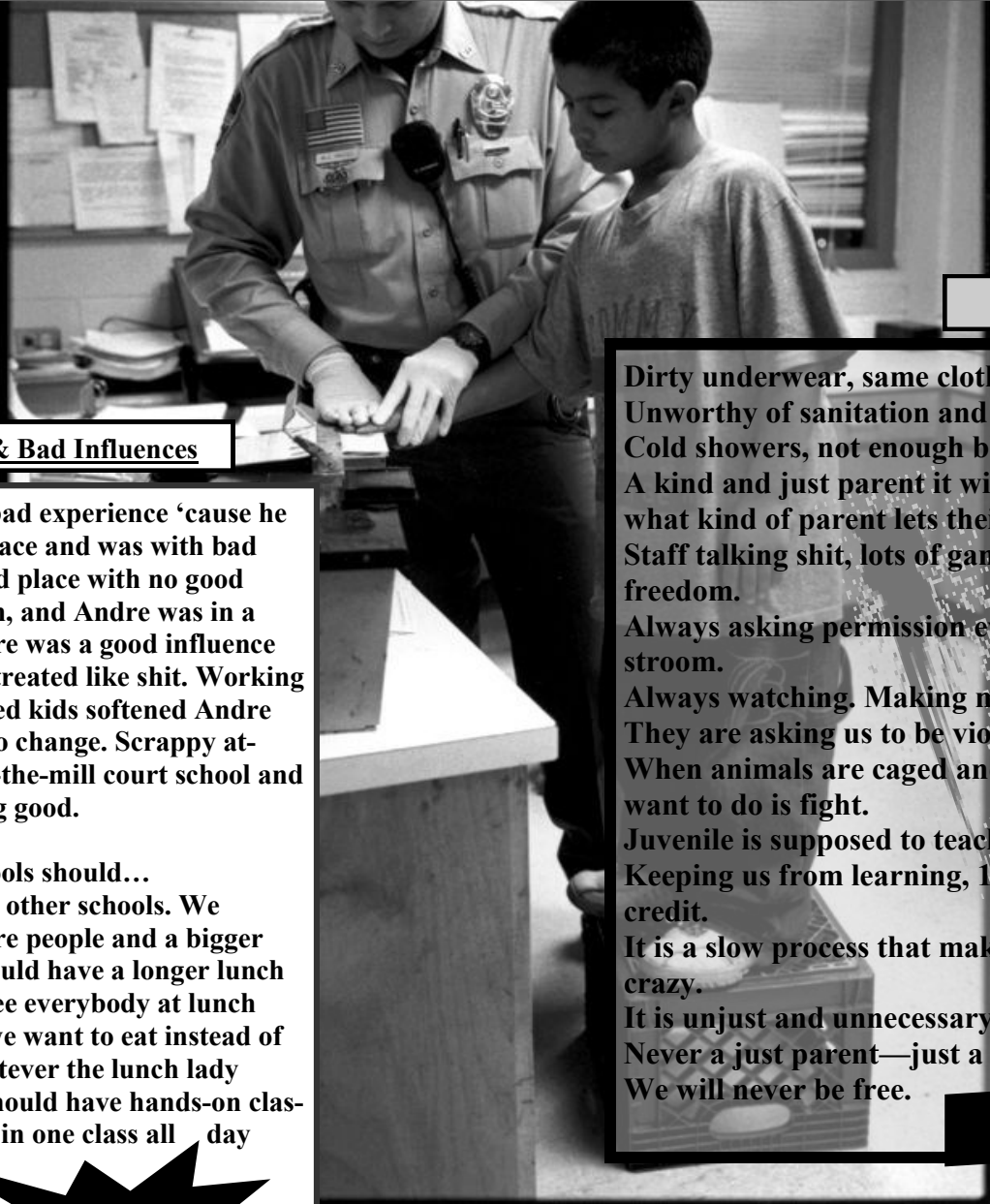


Our Thoughts On the System...

The New Law

I think the juvenile guards should want to talk to kids and tell that they shouldn't ever come back here. They shouldn't always just yell and fuss and stuff. They might not know that one of the kids never had a family and no one to tell them to do the right things in life. So they shouldn't just feel like "oh this kid is bad and stuff. I don't like him or her." You gotta get to know a person before you judge them. But only God can judge me, that's how I feel. But also I think that the Juvenile System should come up with a good solution and make kids not want to keep coming back ever again because kids keep coming back. They think it's cool, I guess. But they need a new law or something because a lot of teenagers are going to jail nowadays, even killed. So we need to come up with a new law of something.

Mikqual



Good & Bad Influences

Scrappy had a bad experience 'cause he was in a hard place and was with bad people and a bad place with no good influence on him, and Andre was in a place where there was a good influence and he was not treated like shit. Working with handicapped kids softened Andre and he started to change. Scrappy attended a run-of-the-mill court school and he was not doing good.

The county schools should... be more like the other schools. We should have more people and a bigger campus. We should have a longer lunch and be able to see everybody at lunch and pick what we want to eat instead of just getting whatever the lunch lady brings us. We should have hands-on classes and not stay in one class all day long.

Jimmy

Juvenile System

Dirty underwear, same clothes, smelly bathroom. Unworthy of sanitation and loss of identity. Cold showers, not enough blankets to stay warm. A kind and just parent it will never be because what kind of parent lets their children freeze. Staff talking shit, lots of gang banging and no freedom. Always asking permission even just to use the restroom. Always watching. Making me feel like an animal. They are asking us to be violent. When animals are caged and are let free all they want to do is fight. Juvenile is supposed to teach us not to fight, Keeping us from learning, 15 hours to earn a credit. It is a slow process that makes you want to go crazy. It is unjust and unnecessary. Never a just parent—just a cage. We will never be free.

Ashley & Donnel

I think that if you go to the Hall and you get out, and go to the same environment, you will go back in where you're at. I think if you go to the Hall you need to stay at home. -Hayden

Our Thoughts on the System...

The police are thirsty and set people up. They put a car in the 'hood with keys in the ignition and wait for someone to take it. They do it to get people in Jail, to get more money and keep it going.

Matt

I believe that the juvenile justice system is a factory that takes young kids who make mistakes and turns them hard. My cousin made mistakes in high school that landed him in juvie. He was there for a year and a half and ever since then he had not been able to get his life together. My aunt finally kicked him out after too many of his alcohol rages. He now is twenty and lives on the streets. I feel that the system scarred him and since he spent time in juvie, he missed out on growing up like a normal teenage kid. If the juvenile system wants to help kids then it needs to start treating kids their age and help give them other alternatives to their life than gang-banging. Programs that help keep them their age and as young and soft as possible are the key to the systems success.

-Allie

Juvenile Justice system is "Stupid." Why? Trying to torture in a mental way in the cell for 23 hours a day. Especially if there is lockdown. You only get to go outside for an hour. It gets some people and me starting to act crazy. I do not think the juvenile justice system is a kind and just parent. They don't see you as a person, they just see you for the reasons why you're there. A friend that I had went to juvie for a long time. I saw him after like two years. He wasn't that bad before but now he's in a gang. He met these other people when he went to juvie and that got him in contact with gang life. Probation officers don't always help; it depends on how they are. They changed my probation officers a lot. I've never met anyone in the juvenile system that treated my like a parent. People that work for the system are unfair. They over exaggerate everything; try to make everything seem bigger than it is.

Ezzy and Olivia

The System

The Juvenile Justice system changed my friend. Whenever we used to hang out, he was just like me. He skated with all of us and we used to all hang out. Then he got into the gang life and he went to juvie. Once he got out, I seen him at the club, The Hudson, and he was all gangstered out. He got tatted all over and does drugs. Things aren't the same, I still talk to him, but not how I used to. I think it changed him for good.

Daniel

I think the choices you make are completely up to you. You are going to do what you want to do no matter what. I don't think Juvenile Hall helps because they are not trying to really help you. If you went to Juvenile Hall and they actually tried to help you, turn around your life, and tried to fix the problem, then it would be positive. Some probation officers do help, but they don't because they don't treat you like they care. I have yet to meet someone that working in the Juvenile System that actually was nice and caring.

-Savannah

A Kind & Just Parent

A kind and just parent?

We have a system—not a parent. A system that's falling apart and being rebuilt at the same time. There's no standard of justice, no fair solution for anyone involved. Instead of investing in cells and barbed wire, we need to find ways to prevent crimes. Our youth serve as a mirror of society, and yet it's society that's locking them up, denying them the chance to make a difference.

MARY

I think the one thing that the Juvenile system should change is the gang activity.—**Daniel**

I think they should change the government because a lot of teenagers nowadays are dead or either in jail.—**Mikqual**

I think that they should change the reasons kids are sent to juvie. There should be other places for different crimes.—**Kevin**

This is Stupid

When a teen gets grounded, what does he try to do?

He'll maybe climb out of the window, or yell at his parents maybe start throwing things around

It's the same thing that happens when they get locked up. They act out and say "This is stupid"—because it is.

If a teen is doing things they shouldn't they are most likely going through something or just hanging out with the wrong people. Instead of getting locked up they should get advised, like a good parent would do. Sit down and talk about it without getting to the point where the teen is getting yelled at. That will set him off. Instead ask him about the things troubling him. Earn his respect first so he can respect you too.

-Betsy

One of the issues with juvie is that they do not influence you to stop being "bad." The majority of the institutions do not show kids respect, and do not care about their future. This needs to change. They need to make kids want to get clean by offering them opportunities if they do well. A friend of mine decided to go clean and stay out of juvie because his supervisor said that if he passed a drug test, he would help him find a job so he can start making money. They think they are getting kids off the streets to help them but they are only surrounding them with more people who have screwed up. My uncle was in juvie for a year, got out, then just got himself in trouble with a U-Haul full of weed. The just parent we call the juvenile justice system did not help my uncle at all, If anything it made him harder. I think that one of the most important we could do to help kids get on the right track is to put them in the proper environment.

-Kevin

I think that growing up in the Juvenile Justice System can be a good things if you want it to be, but it can also be a bad thing because you can get more ideas in there of how to be a criminal. But it can help you by eating god, working out, studying, and getting lecture. Well some programs that are good in there are like drug programs or victim awareness programs.

IVAN

The Juvenile Justice System Should Change...

Easier access to help that will benefit them after juvie. More, better quality food. —Jesus and Sara

The time given to each case. It should be longer and looked at in different ways so that the punishment fits the crime. —Joseph and Julie

Not be cruel—Edwin

Their food, their clothing. Maybe everything. —Shakeema

They need to have more privacy. —Dallas

They need to help people grow. —Nick

Need to change the cells. -- Hayden

If they took off the walls and the doors it would be better. —Ezzy and Olivia

Treat humans like humans—Pilar

Provide a better education in juvie -Tania

I want to change bedtime. —Ivan

Exposure to violence.—Allie

Warm water, sanitary clothes. —Ashley and Donnel

The way they treat the kids. —Savannah

Have more books and less bars. Juvie shouldn't be training for prison, it should be training for a job or college. In the halls, their school is a privilege. School shouldn't be a privilege, it should be like a MUST! It sorta seems like the system wants you to come back, because they aren't letting you open your vocab and stuff like that.

-Richie

Prevention. How do we prevent the children from coming back? There needs to be significant and meaningful programming.

—Lorenzo

Intentions. There's currently an unclear mix of rehabilitative and punitive policies and services, and it should be more rehabilitative.

-Mary

Juvenile Justice needs to change the way they are treating teens. —Betsy

How Do We Change the Pipeline?

Creating a Safer Neighborhood

In order to change communities for the better we should start with funding. A lot of neighborhoods could be completely reformed with money. Then, schools in that neighborhood would have more available resources. As well, there should be more outlets for children to let their frustration out. We should have more free activities for children so they can be more actively involved and find ways to stay out of trouble. There should also be free transportation so parents don't have to stress or worry about how are they going to get to work.

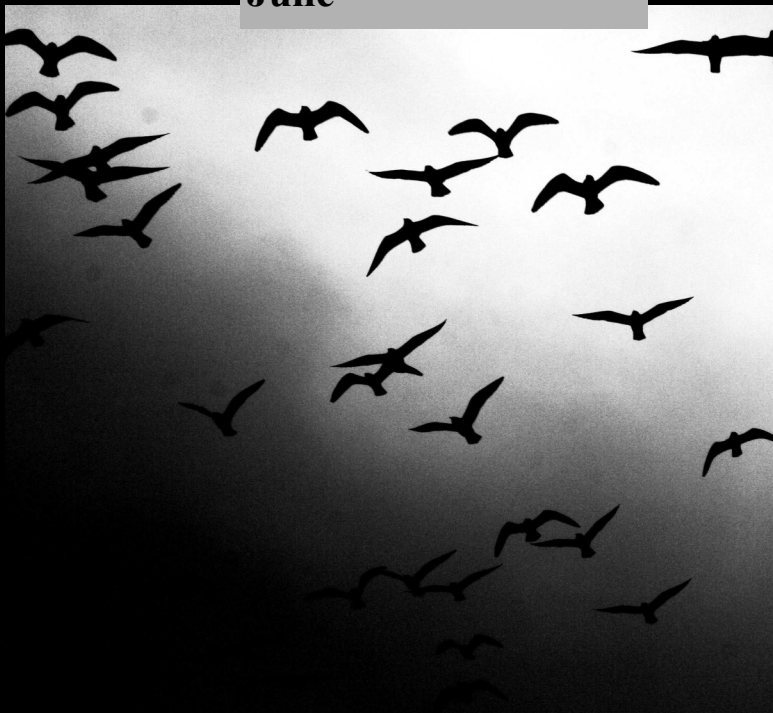
On top of that the police system needs to change. In order for there to be respect in neighborhoods it needs to start with the police. They are supposed to be the foundation of communities and in order for them to earn our respect they must respect us. Police officers patrol neighborhoods with intent to get people in trouble. They are filled with corruption. So in order for that to change, there needs to be a huge reform in the police system. There also needs to be more access to jobs for the working poor. People have the desire for money and since they can't get it they engage in criminal behavior. This results in a much more dangerous setting. More jobs equal more opportunities and a safer neighborhood.

**Nick, Ashley, Betsy,
Julie**



We Think that

All students should be treated like they are destined to succeed
Not be talked down to.
There should be no expulsions
And no county schools.
Penalties should be meaningful
and connected to the crime
There should be more interesting
after-school programs.
We need caring teachers and more electives.
We need better education
and equal money across schools
So all children are provided the same education.
We need more money in financial aid.
We need to remove borders between countries.
Cops need to help people instead of punish them.
We need positive role models.
We need authority figures to listen to youth.
We need to help people in
poverty so they are not desperate for money.
We need jobs for adults and teens.
We need to start asking questions
and taking responsibility
We need fewer prejudiced people,
especially cops.
We need to change unjust laws.
We need Equality



Barbara Phelps and University of Redlands Students



Schools for Life

This is what we think high schools should be like...

1. We think there should be better relationships with teachers. We can do this by only hiring teachers who care and monthly student evaluations.
2. Students with the highest grades should be given the responsibility to evaluate teachers.
3. There should be a rewards program such as field trips, lunch privileges and help with college.
4. We think there should be more parent involvement such as notifications, parent training, family therapy.
5. Teachers shouldn't have the right to suspend kids only principals.
6. Students with the highest grades are guaranteed a job interview and future help with setting up a job.
7. We think there should be smaller class sizes and more breaks.
8. Students should be given the option to go to trade schools or high schools for the arts.
9. There should be different teaching styles to meet the needs of different learning abilities.
10. Better food gives students something to look forward to.

Kevin, Allie, Daniel, Robert, John and Olivia.

Importance of an Education

Education can make you a millionaire. If you do it right you can have everything you want. It is something you need.

There needs to be more individual tutoring. The President should pay for daycare and afterschool programs, all of it. These programs should be in the same school and taxes should be used to pay for them.

Education especially English classes should be available for all immigrants. Parenting classes should be available to everyone, for free. It helps parents be closer to their children and keeps them out of trouble, especially gangs.

Everyone should have the opportunity to go to college because everyone needs a good job. If they have a good job they'll be able to support their family.

Mary, Edwin, Lorenzo and Hayden



Children Need Parents who Can Be

Parents need jobs to make more money
More money equals more resources and opportunities.
Having a steady job will make life much easier.
Parents need to stop doing drugs and support their kids.
Kids could tell their parents to stop doing drugs
and focus on their kids.
They need help with their addictions
because many of them do not know that they even have an addiction,
and it often gets taken out on their kids.
Parents should be provided counseling
to help them stay on the right track.
Parents should not abuse their children.
They need to be supportive, pay attention
and talk to their kids about stuff sometimes.
Because their children might be hiding things from them.
Both parents and kids need to come to an understanding
that life is challenging for both.
Single moms need help raising their children
because some have to work numerous jobs to support their family
for when they are not around.
Parents need to be parents
Because excuses are not solving the problems.

Legalize It

*We need to spend less money by
not relying on a prison
sentence and more on the
alternative and least restrictive
option to stop unnecessary
incarceration and legalize
marijuana. The war against
marijuana costs taxpayers. We
need to stop unnecessary
arrests.*

Jimmy

Donnel, Mikqual and Pilar

If We Ruled Barbara Phelps

We would have...
New Books
No more Nasty Lunches
Classes that start later in the day
Longer breaks
Hands-on classes like training to be mechanics
We could wear logos and hats
Have our phones for emergencies
We would have teachers that help you learn
Classes at your own level
And Offer more of a challenge
So when we get back to high school
We are ready.

**Jimmy, Evan, Sam, Caitlin, Matt &
Richie**



The Military Way Out

Well my dream for the future has been to join the U.S. army when I'm seventeen with parents consent and to come back home and start a life with a wife and kids. This won't be hard. We can accomplish anything if we want to, staying in school and getting my diploma so living standards are okay when I return from service. I will be able to accomplish this by accepting the past and how the community and my friends shaped me.

Kasey



Legal Dealing

One of my dreams when I grow up is to be a doctor and own a medical marijuana dispensary. I plan on doing this by graduating high school and going to college hopefully for premed and then go to med schools. Some of the things that stand in my way are getting in trouble and not graduating or not having enough *money* or good enough grades to get into premed/med school.

Nick

How do I achieve my...

Dreams

Foundation for Happiness

Her dream is to become a chef.
Her dream is to become a fashion designer.
They both want to travel and be happy,
but the problem is, they don't have *money*.
Luckily, they're born determined,
like busy bees making honey in their hive.
They've already got a head start
because of their plans
She wants to be financially independent.
She wants to be taken care of.
Their degrees will be the foundation
of their stable lives.

Betsy and Caitlin



Dreams

My dreams for the future are to go to college and be a mechanic. I can make them come true if I get out of the school that I am in and go to high school and then *college*. Some of the things that get in the way is the school that I am at right now.

JIMMY

DREAMS

My Dreams

I dream big, I dream small.

I'll dream for me, I'll dream for all.

They come and go, they fall and grow.

Today I work, Tomorrow I'll see.
Hopefully my future s what I planned for me.

Olivia

What To Be...

Hi my name is Mikqual and when I was six I wanted to be a professional football player.

I am Ashley and when I was six I wanted to be a teacher.

My biggest dreams are being a famous rapper, actor, basketball player, counselor, or probation officer.

I dream of a life of happiness, a career in law, and simply a life where I can help children who need it.

The things that are stopping me a little bit are the decisions I be making.

Mikqual and Ashley

Young Struggles

My dream for the future is to have a career and eventually set up a business in construction. The most important thing I could do to accomplish my dream is to *stay in school* and concentrate, and most importantly not get into trouble and stay away from the bad influences. Some obstacles in the way of me achieving my goals are *lack of money*, and I am a little too concentrated on having fun right now while I'm young. My best option is just to concentrate on my work and not get distracted by *bad influences*.

Ricardo

DREAMS

A Rough Start

My name is Ezzy. When I was born, I was born sick. I had the flu and the doctors told my mom they didn't know if I was going to live or not. It took too much to put me on a healthy track. When I was growing up my dad always told me that I could do great things, and he would always help me in anything I wanted to be in life.

The years passed. As I grow, my way of thinking also changed. I didn't want to go to school. I was hanging out and smoking pot, even though the fashions changed I stayed the same. When I turned fourteen my understanding was different. I had new dreams by then. I was always getting suspended then. I found myself in difficult situations. Many things happened before I could get straight. My dream is to become a professional cage fighter. My persuasion is my community and the culture of my people and one day I can give back to my community.

Ezzy

What Happens to Dreams

What if you're the only thing
that keeps you from your dream
self destructive tendencies,
and spoiled success.

Undeserved congratulations,
contrasted with deserved
insults and disrespect and mind tweaks.

What happens to my dreams is they
cease to be dreams
because the only thing that
makes it a dream, is if
deep down,
you know it can happen.

Evan



DREAM

D- o want to go to college
R- eally want to live on my own
E- veryday stay in school and out of trouble
A- fter time passes I can achieve my dreams
M- aking my dreams come true all on my own

Donnel & Allie



DREAMS

Now and Then

Everyone has dreams that perhaps may not come true... I dreamed of traveling the world and seeing new things. I dreamed of taking care of animals and being happy. I dreamed... Now my dreams are more like goals, I dream of changing the educational system. I dream of helping students find their passion. I dream of going to other countries to help kids and different communities. There are always barriers and steps. **Money** is needed for everything but it's the one thing I don't have. My dreams are made of *hopes goals* and *aspirations*.

Julie

What can We Do?

The thing that keeps us away from our dreams are *bad choices* that land us with probation, *lack of money*, and *self control*. What can we do to achieve our dreams? Get *motivated*, *work hard*, and be *inspired* by those who struggle. Our dreams are to own a restaurant and to take care of my family, to join the navy and have a family, and to change educational policy so that every child has an equal opportunity to learn.

Ivan

What I Need

Motivation is what I need,
Preparation will help me succeed
The need is to be free.

Tania

Life Decisions

My dreams are my future
My path to find my way.
A proper education and a family
Is the future I await.
Struggles in life, and uncertainties
seem to block my way.
Lack of money just keeps me
hustlin' each and everyday.
Scholarships and grades always on my mind.
How am I supposed to balance a boyfriend
If I never have time.
Children, family, school
a balance I just can't find.
What's more important to graduate
or to have my future child?

Pilar

Hear Me Out

Hear Me Out

Listen to Our Lyrics

Written and Produced by:

**George
Donnel
Pilar
Evan
Betsy
Robert
Samantha
Jimmy
Mikqual
Missy
Kendoe**

**Richie
Daniel
Caitlin
Julie
Jesse
Eric
Jesus
Kevin
Matt
Nick
Ashley**

**John
Edwin
Olivia
Hugo
Dallas
Juan
Salvador
Allie
Ezzy
Hayden
Aaron**

**Shakeema
Kasey
Sara
Cecilia
Lorenzo
Aaron
Mary
Beny
Alonzo
Jen**

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