



## Diploma thesis or school project about the death penalty – The project connectdeathrow

**The topic death penalty:** Ask those who know – the inmates on death row!

To learn more about the project, please read first the starter information in the [flyer English](#) on the connectdeathrow homepage.

You are welcome to make use of the project! For more information, please contact Ines Aubert [contact@connectdeathrow.org](mailto:contact@connectdeathrow.org)

An English teacher whose students all wrote to the connect contributors wrote a feedback afterwards. Enjoy reading! [Feedback of a class of juveniles who wrote letters through the connectdeathrow project](#)

And here some excerpts of and feedback about other letter exchanges through the project connectdeathrow:

Will, 16 years on death row in Florida:

A photograph of a handwritten note on blue-lined paper. The text is written in cursive and reads: "Deathrow is not a life, it is a state of mind. I keep my mind busy more than I do my body, so I do very much enjoy hearing from anyone who takes interest, or is just simply curious." The note is placed on a light blue background.

Deathrow is not a life, it is a state of mind.  
I keep my mind busy more than I do my body,  
so I do very much enjoy hearing from anyone who  
takes interest, or is just simply curious.

A, 15 years old:

Dear W.

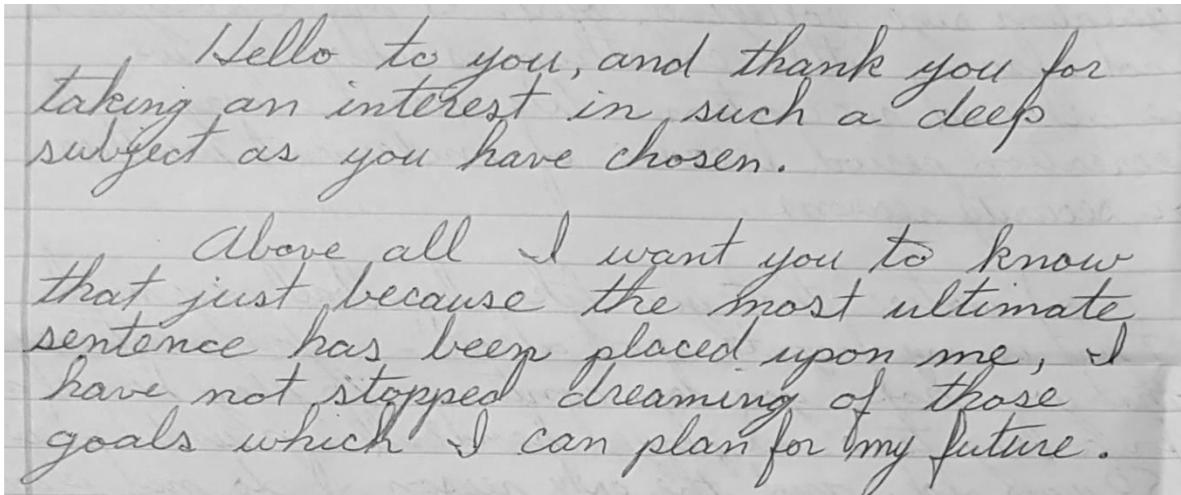
I am A. and I live in Switzerland. My family and I live in a house. My brother is 14 years old, my sister nine years and I am 15 years old. At our garden we have many flowers and much space to play. At the garden we are not alone, because our rabbits live there in a big cage. This year we plant many flowers and many berries. I hope they grow good.

At the end of the Middle school we must do a project. I heard that Ines write you letters and I was very interested in that, so I decided to do the same. What are you doing all day? What are your dreams?

Kind regards

A.

Answer of a death row inmate to a juvenile's questions:



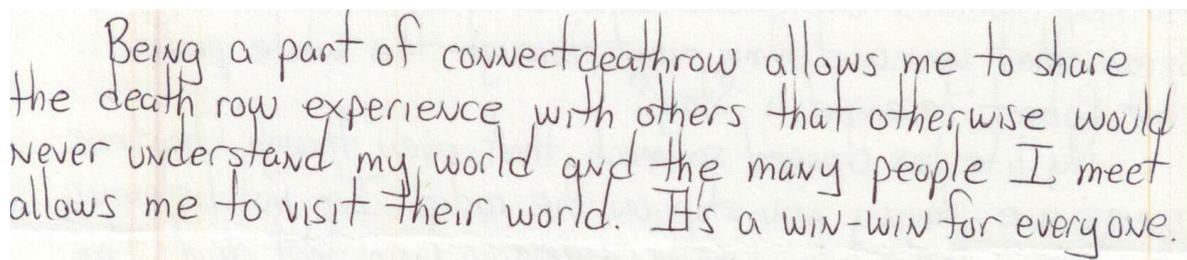
Hello to you, and thank you for taking an interest in such a deep subject as you have chosen.

Above all I want you to know that just because the most ultimate sentence has been placed upon me, I have not stopped dreaming of those goals which I can plan for my future.

Answer of an inmate:

To answer your question of "what do I do with my day" is this... I like to read books of many different genres, and if I am not reading, I like to solve a variety of puzzles such as Crosswords, Logic Problems, Sudoku, Anagrams, Cryptograms, Kakuro and any kind of puzzle that challenges my mind. I am very limited as to what I am "allowed" to do in my cell, but that is only in a physical sense. Even though I am locked into a limited physical environment, my mind is still free to do as I wish. ☺ I do get a recreation period twice a week, but for only three hours each period. There are only a few activities that are afforded us during outdoor recreation...

Feedback of an inmate on the project connectdeathrow:



Being a part of connectdeathrow allows me to share the death row experience with others that otherwise would never understand my world and the many people I meet allows me to visit their world. It's a win-win for everyone.

Feedback on the project by N., 15 years old, 2017:

I am 15 years old and I have exchanged 3 letters with the inmate. It was a great experience and I'm very glad that I was able to make this experience. I can definitely say that I was very impressed and happy about how kind the inmate was. At the end of a letter he always wrote "Take care of yourself" and this little sentence meant so much to me because it isn't just a polite ending.

We were talking about many topics, mainly his childhood, his family relations and life in prison (dealing with other inmates, etc.). Anyway, I'm pretty sure that this experience will influence my life in many ways. First of all, before taking part in this project I wasn't sure whether I'm against death row or not. Now I'm 100% sure that death row shouldn't be practiced anymore and that it'll never be the right way to handle any situation. Furthermore I've thought much about the inmate's letters and I won't quit doing this for a long time. I'm also convinced that I'll never forget him and the letters he wrote. My mother thought it was a good idea to take part in this project, she was happy about me thinking about that serious issues from many views and not only seeing them in black or white. My father was a little bit more skeptical. If my mother hadn't allowed it, he wouldn't have allowed it too. But he wasn't here for it because he thought that the inmate would receive my/our address. While writing and receiving the letters and seeing me being curious and thoughtful about it, he started being interested in it and now he doesn't regret allowing me taking part in it. He's glad my mother convinced him to let me do it.