

„I would like to click on Google Earth“

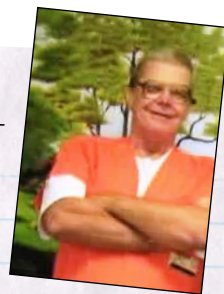
The Swiss project connectdeathrow.org allows young people to have short time contacts to death row prisoners in the USA. Many juveniles and students are interested in learning more about the everyday lives of death row prisoners. Here are some excerpts of the inmates' answers:

” You asked what I do with my free time. Which I thought was funny since I'm locked up and therefore never have "free time" 😊. The thing is as a death row prisoner I'm locked in a cell pretty much all the time. We get to take a shower three times a week for about 10-15 minutes. And go to the recreation yard twice a week for 2.5 to 3 hours. If we get a visit we come out for that too, but if not, we stay in our single person cages. So in theory we have a lot of free time but it never seems that way.“



Troy, 46 years old, on death row in Florida for 46 years

” Mobile phone, laptop, video games – as the person the longest on Florida's death row, I've never used any of them. I would like to learn how to use and operate a laptop. My handwriting is so bad that I know it drives people crazy trying to figure out what I'm trying to say. Also there are a few sites out there that I would like to click on, like "google earth". I would like to look at the screen and see what the rest of the world looks like.“



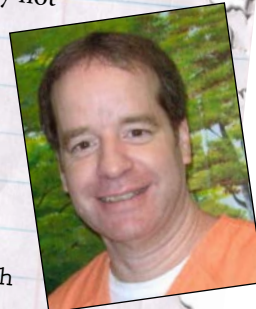
Bill, 66 years old, on death row in Florida for 43 years

” When inmates are transferred from their county jail to state prison, everything is confiscated from them except personal items like letters, photos and legal documents. Nowhere else except death row have I seen the level of caring inmates that provide the new arrivals with necessities like soap, a toothbrush, deodorant, postage stamps, writing utensils and sometimes some consumables as well. This is an important gift that allows the new arrival to get on his feet immediately because sometimes it takes several weeks before they are allowed to purchase items, if they are fortunate enough to have brought money with them.“



José, 48 years old, in prison in Texas for 28 years, 22 of which have been on death row

” A new warden will soon take over. Recently he sent a memo around demanding we wear our class "A" orange pants and shirts from 8 am to 9 pm, Monday through Friday. The oranges are heavy and will be unbearably hot in the summer months. I will not put all that on while it's 32° Celsius and above. It almost certainly will effect letters and visits. But I have to live in this cell 24 hours a day, every day. I'm not going to be tortured.“



M., 50 years old, on death row in Florida since 30 years

www.connectdeathrow.org

The project addresses juveniles, students and confirmation classes. It's also open for journalists and other interested people.