



Maturarbeit, Schulprojekt oder Vortrag über die Todesstrafe - Das Projekt connectdeathrow

Das Projekt connectdeathrow ermöglicht zeitlich begrenzte Briefkontakte mit einem Gefangenen im Todestrakt oder mit einer anderen Person, die von der Todesstrafe betroffen ist.

▪ **Wer ist die Zielgruppe für das Projekt?**

Alle **Lehr- oder Pfarrpersonen** mit ihren Klassen und **Studierende, die sich für die Todesstrafe interessieren**, können von diesem Projekt Gebrauch machen. Auch andere Leute sind willkommen.

Das Projekt soll Studierenden oder Schul- resp. Konfirmandenklassen die Möglichkeit geben, in einen kurzzeitigen Kontakt zu einem Gefangenen im Todestrakt oder einer anderen Person, die von der Todesstrafe betroffen ist, zu treten. Die Briefe werden durch das Projekt weitergeleitet, und es gibt keinen direkten Kontakt.

▪ **Was bietet das Projekt?**

Neben dem **schriftlichen Austausch mit einem Gefangenen** gibt es auch die Möglichkeit, einen **Gast** einzuladen, welcher von der Todesstrafe und vom Leben im Todestrakt erzählt.

▪ **Wer sind die Gefangenen, welche die Briefe beantworten?**

Alle Gefangenen haben sich bereit erklärt, Briefe von Jugendlichen oder Schulklassen persönlich zu beantworten. Ihr Wunsch ist es, „der Welt etwas zurückzugeben“. Sie erwarten keinen anderen Gewinn als den kurzfristigen Austausch, welcher ihnen Freude bereitet.

Texte von den Gefangenen können in „Inmates speak“ gelesen werden.

▪ **Was kann ich den Gefangenen fragen?**

Alle Fragen zum Leben im Todestrakt, zum Sinn des Lebens oder zum Tod sind geeignet.

▪ **Wer sind die Leute in der Sektion „Other people speak“?**

Die Menschen in „Other people speak“ sind Angehörige von Mordopfern oder Verwandte und Freunde von Gefangenen im Todestrakt. Sie erzählen ebenfalls gerne von ihren Erfahrungen.

▪ **Wie beginne ich die Kommunikation, und was kostet es?**

Das Projekt wird auf freiwilliger Basis geführt und ist gratis. Um das Porto für den schriftlichen Austausch mit den Gefangenen zu finanzieren, wird ein Beitrag von 15-20 Franken/Euro erhoben. Ein Austausch kann normalerweise sofort begonnen werden.



Für weitere Fragen stehe ich gerne zur Verfügung.

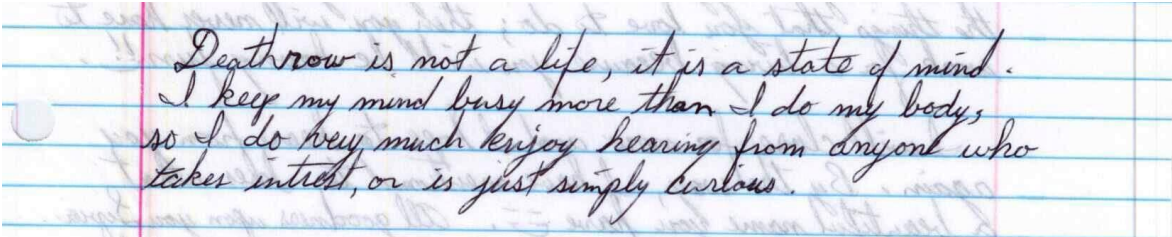
Ines Aubert contact@connectdeathrow.org

Dezember 2017

Excerpts of and Feedback about a letter exchange through the project connectdeathrow

Will, 16 years on death row in Florida:

A,
15



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.

years old:

Dear W.

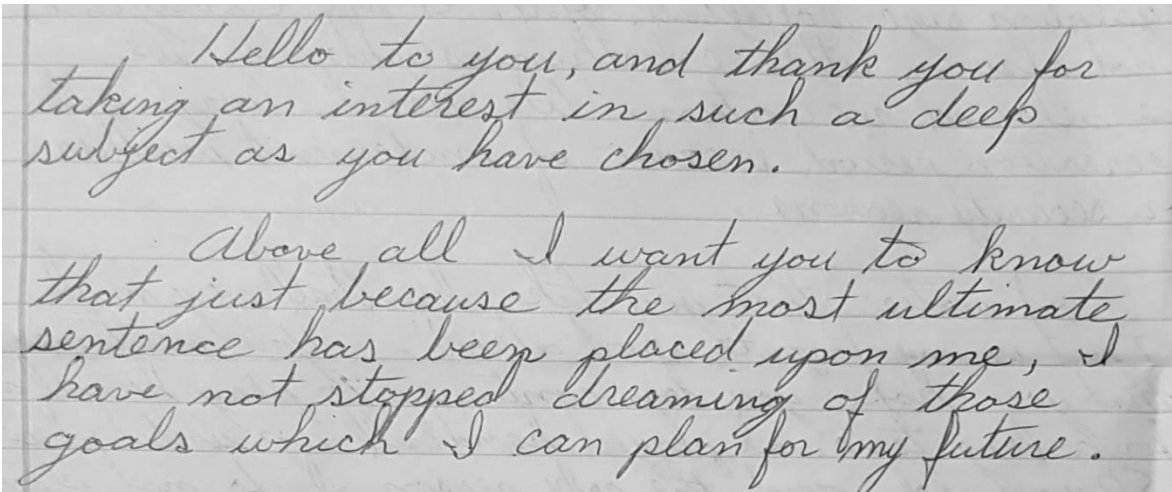
I am A. and I live in Switzerland. My family and I live in a house. My brother is 14 years old, my sister nine years and I am 15 years old. At our garden we have many flowers and much space to play. At the garden we are not alone, because our rabbits live there in a big cage. This year we plant many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

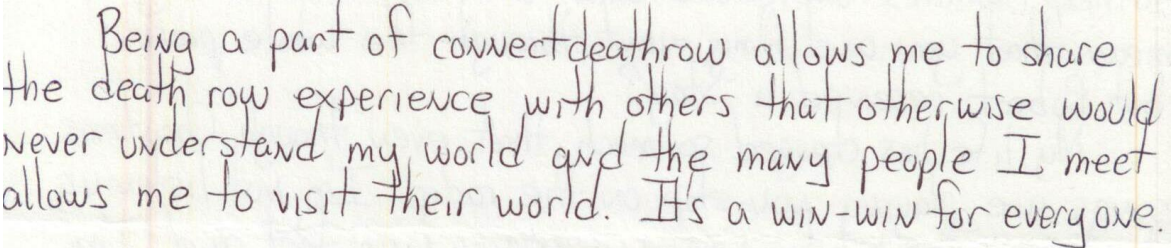
Above all I want you to know
that just because the most ultimate
sentence has been placed upon me, I
have not stopped dreaming of those
goals which I can plan for my future.

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.