

**ATTENTION CURRENTLY AND FORMERLY INCARCERATED AUTHORS!**

Fair Shake Authors page: This page has been created to showcase literary accomplishments, and to share opportunities with new and aspiring writers! If you are an incarcerated or formerly incarcerated writer with a book that can be purchased somewhere on the internet (I need to be able to post a link), please send your name, book title and where the book can be found and I'll post it on the page.

**Writing Outlets:**

**American Prison Writing Archive**

c/o Hamilton College  
198 College Hill Road  
Clinton, NY 13323-1218

"The mission of the APWA is to replace speculation on and misrepresentation of prisons, imprisoned people, and prison workers with first-person witness by those who live and work on the receiving end of American criminal justice." As of 2.18.20 they have 2323 titles in English and 17 titles in Spanish. <https://apw.dhinitiative.org/>

**Prisons Foundation**

2512 Virginia Ave. NW, #58043  
Washington, DC 20037

If you are an incarcerated person who has written a book, or would like to write a book, we want to publish it. All books on any subject are welcome. There is no charge to you to publish your book and no charge to anyone who wishes to read it. You retain full rights to your book if you later wish to place it with a literary agent or commercial publisher. It will be protected under common copyright law. When we receive your book, it will be scanned in its entirety, just as you submitted it to us, even if it's hand written. <http://prisonsfoundation.org/>

**WRITING TIPS** by Neil Postman

**Strive for three things:**

1. Clarity
2. Engagement
3. There is no third thing

Thinking Clearly: make an outline. if you think you can skip this step, you aren't thinking clearly.

Writing Clearly: Eschew baroque vernacular

Whenever possible do your level best to avoid at all costs the unnecessary words you should be avoiding but aren't.

Slash and burn. Repeat. First drafts are always twice as long as they should be.

Say one thing big. If you have two big things to say, control yourself.

Use metaphors and examples. Provide maps and sign posts on the narrative journey (previews, pointers, summaries, and redundancies)

Accept Criticism: When readers tell you that you're writing is unclear or uninteresting, they are by definition correct

Writing Stylishly: don't try. The only style worth having is your natural speaking voice.



Prison Journalism Project (PJP) is a digital magazine for incarcerated writers and others to take the power of journalism into their own hands, to learn the craft of journalistic storytelling and to share their stories about life behind bars. We believe that the deep reforms that are necessary to fix the U.S. criminal justice system can only happen by shifting the narrative. Intentional, responsible and well-crafted journalism from within the incarcerated community can break stereotypes, bring more transparency and drive change. We aim to develop the first national network of prison correspondents and help shape freedom of the press behind walls; our ultimate goal is to create a national network of prison correspondents.

We see an opportunity to address the critical and urgent need for accurate information by connecting the dots between prisons across the country, bringing transparency to an opaque industry, and asserting the rights of prison journalists.

PJP is an all-volunteer organization currently housed at Penn State University. Our co-founders, Yukari Kane and Shaheen Pasha, are veteran journalists with 20 years' experience each at newsrooms including The Wall Street Journal, Reuters, CNN and Dow Jones; Kane and Pasha are also journalism educators at Northwestern University and Penn State University, respectively, with vast experience teaching inside prisons.

## **WRITE FOR PRISON JOURNALISM PROJECT!**

### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

**WHO:** Writers and artists who are incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, family members, corrections officers, prison educators and others involved in the criminal justice system or affected by the experience of prison or jail. We welcome submissions by first-time writers.

**WHAT:** Articles, essays, poems, art and cartoons that incorporate firsthand observations and/or experiences. Our word count is 500 - 1,200 words (ideally 1,000 words or less). No more than **ONE STORY** or **THREE POEMS** per submission. We cannot publish work that we cannot understand. We do not publish stories that re-litigate individual cases. Submission categories include:

For more information, write to:  
Prison Journalism Project  
2093 Philadelphia Pike #1054  
Claymont, DE 19703

<https://prisonjournalismproject.org/>

## **PJP SPECIAL PROJECT: WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE YOU?**

One of our goals is to de-stigmatize the incarceration experience by introducing readers who are untouched by incarceration to perspectives and stories from behind walls. We want everyone to see you and connect with you as fellow humans.

However, we also know that it's difficult to be open about your past, present and future if you have to put your name on it.

In this project, we invite you to take a piece of blank paper and anonymously answer the question - **WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE YOU?** You can answer the question however you want as long as it's true. It can be a journal entry, letter, poem, song, art - however you express yourself. Put your state location at the bottom, and your name at the back. We hope you'll also invite others around you to submit something. This only works if we get a lot of submissions. If you can collect a few and send them to us on their behalf, it would be great. We are treating this project as art - please send it to

PJP Special Projects  
3501 Southport Ave., #204  
Chicago, IL 60657