

Reverse Prison Project Assignment (or Get Your Money Back Assignment)

Description/Problem

One of the main questions that drives the second part of this course on race and mass incarceration is: Why has there been a state-wide, systematic investment in the negation of California's young Black, Brown, and poor populations' futures in the form of imprisonment and captivity? And/or why have we as a state (and country) not spent public monies on institutions and structures that lend themselves to the productive, viable, living futures of all citizens? As we engage in scholarship to better understand racial state violence in the form of incarceration, it is important to consider what the alternatives could have been or what they could be.

In a two-part assignment, write what could be done with the monies spent on the over-incarceration of the people of California that would lend itself to a productive, healthy future of the population of the state. Using the fact sheets from the Legislative Analyst's Office and Solitary Watch, which give a rough estimate on the cost to house incarcerated peoples, explain what you would do with the money. Think of the documentaries that we have watched on prisons, *The Prison in 12 Landscapes* and *Prison Town USA*, for ideas. Consider what could be done with one of the state facilities already built (see the list of California prisons also attached) and then what you would build with the monies spent in a year, or over the course of 10 years. Be creative; build whatever you like.

1. The first part will include the name of the prison and all the background historical information about it. What did it cost to build? What is the yearly budget and the cost of maintenance? What is the yearly cost to house a person? (2 pages)
2. The second part will be the building of an alternate (or opposite of the prison) institution and structure in place of the prison that you chose. Be as creative as you like and consider all the structures and practices that we talked about in class that build healthy, viable, vital, and happy communities. Consider the location and the geography, including people and workers, weather, infrastructure, etc. (3 pages and at least one visual)

As always, put your name and date in the header of the paper. You can include photos ,but they are to be in addition to the written pages. Please turn in a hard copy on the due date and be prepared to talk about it in class. Looking forward!