



YOU'RE MORE THAN A NUMBER

Purpose of Write Night \\ Write Night is more than a pen pal ministry. We are not asking prisoners to sign up for us to write to them. We are *choosing* to proactively write them to encourage and speak life into those who we know are desperately looking for more. We are writing despite their faith. Write Night does not exist to remind those in prison of their wrongdoings or the message of “repent or go to hell.” Faith may be the motivation behind Write Night, but it was not designed to force Jesus down someone’s throat. We do, however, want to write authentically from our hearts, where our faith may be revealed and share the good news of Jesus.

Why Write Night \\ More than 2.3 million men and women are locked away in America’s prisons and jails. Most of them are desperate for a connection to the outside world. They have become the forgotten part of society with their existence spent locked away in cold houses of concrete and steel. They are “out of sight, out of mind” to their families, friends, and loved ones. Like you and I, those in prison feel pain, they feel the ache of loneliness, and they feel the guilt of their pasts, but also can feel the joy of receiving a simple letter written directly to them.

Words Have Power \\ Letters, sent to prisoners, have power. They are regarded as treasure. They are reminders that they are still part of society, that they are not alone and that they are worth something. It may surprise you that for the price of a stamp you can help build their self-esteem and alleviate a deep sense of loneliness. Not to mention, have the possibility of planting the seeds of faith in their lives.

THINGS TO KNOW

How Much Should I Share \\ Only share as much as you feel comfortable sharing. Remember, the process of building trust and earning the right to be listened to makes it necessary to share enough information to build a trust relationship, while also protecting your privacy and safety.

- *Do Not Share* \\ Your address, phone number, or financial information

Who Am I Writing To? \\ Some of the people you will write to are in prison for theft, drugs, assaults, rape, murder, and various other offenses. We do not include what their offense is because regardless of their crime, we want to provide hope and encouragement to all those in prison.

- Continue the Story recommends that men write to men, and women write to women.

Learning & Literacy Levels Vary \\ By some estimates, between one-third and one-half of the people in prisons are ‘functionally illiterate’ - meaning they cannot satisfactorily fill out a job application or do basic paperwork. The average reading level of those in Ohio prisons is around a seventh-grade reading level. Please be mindful of this as you prepare to write to those in prison.

Important Things to Know Before Your Begin \\

- This is an approved envelope and stamp. Normal adhesive stamps are not allowed. Stamps must be embossed or preprinted on the envelopes.
- Only 5 Sheets of paper can be enclosed in the envelope (utilize both sides of paper)
- No markers/crayons can be used on the paper (if kids would like to help, they can draw and color with pencils or blue/black pens)
- No stickers and/or adhesives on anything
- No staples or paperclips