

Reaction Paper #3

Observations

This past week's class, the conversations really heated up. I notice that many people disagreed with each other, which, made for a much more interesting class. This first observation comes from the end of class, when we are going through the situations where we had to decide what we would do with each scenario with forgetting all we knew about the system. It showed me that students can disagree and it may help a person realize how society works and how the outcome of each case can change because of who is deciding it.

The second observation is when the females had very different views from one another more than the male students did. I do not know if it is just the female students in the class or if it is females in general feel these different ways. We were talking about if a woman kills her husband because he was oppressing her by physical and emotional harm. This is when we saw the female students split parts, some went to extreme punishment and others went just physiological help as punishment for the woman. I was amazed at how the females saw themselves so differently. Some say that they could easily not have to take abuse and it is easy to get out and others say that there is no hope once you are in a relationship with an oppressor. This was scary because the females' students in our class are very bright, and makes this topic about equal rights when it comes to sentencing females for the same crime as a male, which is so complicated.

The third observation I made is about the word we pick at the end of class. I think how people answer it really shows us how much they want to get out of the class. Some students seem so happy but others were disappointed in how class went and how others felt about different topics. I believe it shows us who really wants to take a lot out of this class and it will push the others to do as well. It seems that you can go through the class and not say anything, but, the word of the day let other people see how you are feeling about the class. In class it should be fine if some weeks your just not as talkative because we each all have some of those days and can come the next week and be the most talkative student in class.

Analysis and integration

As we look at last week's class, it was all about punishment and rehabilitation. Which one is better then the other is the question everybody turns too when they ask when the government decides to spend money on the prison system and how it should be spent. We could not get everyone to accept one over the other but when reading *Crime and Punishment in America* by Elliott Currie, he says "Until the mid-1970s, it was widely argues that the criminal-justice system ought to be more than just a place for punishment, and more than a place to warehouse the consequences of social neglect." This shows an historical call for a change from how the system used to be run was ineffective so the change into the modern day system that we know. Then he also shows us by saying "No doubted that we needed prisons, or that one of the reasons for using prisons was punishment." Which most of our class agree with him that you need punishment and that without it our society would be completely messed up.

In one of the other writings they talk about rehabilitation as not the only answer for what needs to happen to prisoners when they are incarnated. The other objective is to have the inmate go through a transformation as stated in the article *Ending the Culture of Street Crime*. In the article it looks at the difference between the two, and maybe it is the piece that is missing from the criminal justice system. In class, we did not even talk about transformation. Transformation is different because compare to rehabilitation which "...often occurs externally; transformation originates from within." This is something that must come within a prisoner and that may not be taught or force upon. Another difference is that "Rehabilitation looks to the past; transformation is future oriented." I think that is why rehabilitation may not be working because teaching people what they have done wrong is just changing someone from their past. Transformation is different because it looks to the future and shows them how they can be different, in away not comparable to their past. I believe if you live in the past you can never change their ways.

After punishment, sitting someone in a prison where rehabilitation happens, we can only sit back and wait for what is next. In the same article it says

"Even when the treatment appears successful and the prisoner is inspired to change his life, when he begins reintegrating into the community and experiences the challenges of finding a job, making a living or being accepted, he suffers a moral breakdown and eventually reverts to what he knows and again takes on street crime values."

That happens to so many people this is why I am looking for a job to help ex-inmates in reintegrating in to our society that shun many of these people. I am totally behind the idea of giving people a second chance but not just by letting them out of prison after they serve their time. In class, many people talked about this being our class

project, especially the inside students, who may be scared to be released from prison and have nowhere to go. I think if the system would put more money to this area then maybe the recidivism rate would actually be lowered and could pull money away from rehabilitation that occurs in prison.

Reflection

Wow, I am so happy how class went last week. It gave me a high that afterwards did not allow me to do anything but think about jobs in criminal justice system especially in the rehabilitation quarter. I felt like it was the first time that people let down their front of agreeing with each other and actually wanted to say how they felt, and not caring if they made people upset with their opinion. I think this is what the class is all about, getting to hear other people's views of a subject and then having a debate to see if they can come to an understanding in what they believe could be the best possible solution. The solution that they think of can be what they decide to do with the group project.

Last week, we had some really good ideas for our group project. I am really liking the ideas because a lot of them deal with rehabilitation and that is something that the inside students say they do not see a lot of and since they are the people getting out the soonest, I think they are in more need of it then lifers or someone with a term that is over five years. Next class, I think it will be more focused on the inside students then the outside students because I believe more people who commit crime do it because it happen to them.