

00;00;00;00 - 00;00;00;18

Unknown

So,

00;00;00;18 - 00;00;05;13

Unknown

what do you want people to know about your experience?

00;00;05;13 - 00;00;09;07

Unknown

All right, guys, that has a lot of time.

00;00;09;07 - 00;00;32;05

Unknown

You see, you see that you've seen in the ones that are really serious about changing because you can always and it's not easy to try to away from the classics or even doing things. You have a lot of time. So the guys that. You know, is able to do that, you know, you can.

00;00;32;05 - 00;00;49;19

Unknown

I. It shows said recently that no, people don't see it. You know, I mean, you know how, when I first fell, it just takes a little bit, some kind of middle range just to even get into a classroom.

00;00;49;19 - 00;00;49;26

Unknown

Yeah.

00;00;49;26 - 00;01;04;18

Unknown

But. Yeah. Oh, like when I first got in class, I took graphic design and bookkeeping at Walla Walla, which I even got into those classes the semester helping it out.

00;01;04;21 - 00;01;18;04

Unknown

Just because, you know, I had to go to. And I was thinking that if I was working in a science office and I said, hey, it's work related. So I should be able to take this class. So that's how I got in.

00;01;18;29 - 00;01;25;19

Unknown

So and then once you're in the door it's a little bit easier to take the other classes.

00;01;25;19 - 00;02;00;12

Unknown

yeah. It's it's. One thing I don't think there's so many programs that's available that, I wish more people, you know, take advantage of that. So I think. For some reason, for some reason, I don't know, liberal arts and science is, is, it's one of the classes that actually got me

00;02;00;12 - 00;02;04;26

Unknown

started, you know, to see things a little differently.

00;02;04;29 - 00;02;17;26

Unknown

Not only that, but other classes, I don't know if you had a similar experience because I took business administration courses? What do.

00;02;17;29 - 00;02;23;00

Unknown

You know, it don't really make you think like I do now.

00;02;23;00 - 00;02;53;22

Unknown

but just maybe it's just the writing and all the writing and reading, you know, a lot of writing and reading. But, it's it makes you think about... it opened up memories that I. You know, that I didn't really think about. Yeah. Oh, yeah. I mean, it's good in some ways and not, you know, trying to pull it all out and like, it's kind of like that stream.

00;02;53;22 - 00;03;21;13

Unknown

Once you pull it and start, the conversations keep on coming on. Yeah. Just go with it. And I'm still I'm still in that process. You know, with my mom and dad, you know, there's a lot of things that I don't know, but I'm still and and I'm trying to figure out a way to talk to them without, pulling too much memories from their

00;03;21;13 - 00;03;31;01

Unknown

life, because I know it's not us. It's an ongoing process. There's a lot of trauma on their part.

00;03;31;01 - 00;03;31;21

Unknown

yeah,

00;03;31;21 - 00;03;59;24

Unknown

yeah. So the question is, what do I want people to know... You know, there's people in here, there's actually... You know, I mean, made bad choices... you can't come back. Yeah. It's people

who I'm trying to be better. To meet the opportunity. Just because they might not ever get out of prison

00;03;59;24 - 00;04;03;16

Unknown

doesn't mean they can't change. Yeah,

00;04;03;16 - 00;04;05;25

Unknown

Well, let's let's talk about that a little bit.

00;04;05;25 - 00;04;17;15

Unknown

how did it feel when your parents came to your graduation? So [laughs]

00;04;17;17 - 00;04;25;20

Unknown

I felt... to see them. This could before, they never...

00;04;25;22 - 00;04;28;17

Unknown

I graduated a few times, just from, like, taking courses.

00;04;28;17 - 00;04;57;06

Unknown

But, so when I got here, I graduated from the CTAP and, I say 'Hey, I got a graduation coming up, you wanna come?' and you know, they were, I was pleasantly surprised that they, they wanted to be there. So being able to take pictures with them in my cap and gown was. pretty amazing.

00;04;57;26 - 00;05;36;29

Unknown

I, I, I still trying to. get them to...

Because there's still.. so they've been here three something years and. Yeah. And they're still going through the struggle of trying to, with the English language and they always rely on, you know, their physical labor to get by and now. So that's. Starting to deteriorate. And they're relying on other people like to schedule appointments

00;05;37;02 - 00;05;43;17

Unknown

And do this and that.

00;05;43;20 - 00;05;52;14

Unknown

But so my my dad at one point tried but, gave up.

00;05;52;14 - 00;06;05;02

Unknown

Now when I can't understand why they just tell why there and they feel like it's too late, you know. And I.

00;06;05;05 - 00;06;14;16

Unknown

I'm still I'm still trying to understand it and, you know, in my article, in the piece I, it's that trauma point that

00;06;14;16 - 00;06;17;01

Unknown

I'm trying to,

00;06;17;01 - 00;06;23;20

Unknown

trying to figure out. You know, there's, there's more to it than

00;06;23;22 - 00;06;27;06

Unknown

what's on the surface. You know, what they tell me. Yeah.

00;06;27;06 - 00;06;49;24

Unknown

I can't imagine what they went through. Watching people who had access to education be slaughtered like that. I think the, like, any kind of trauma does something to your to your brain. And we don't know how you respond that way, you know, but then to, like.

00;06;49;26 - 00;07;18;05

Unknown

Be somewhere like, like then to come here. Right. And then education is like pushed on everybody. Well, certain individuals and and then not be able to access that I guess and then being incarcerated when you have parents who are in that situation, like the systems are already restrictive. So maybe,

00;07;18;05 - 00;07;41;12

Unknown

if if there was something that like an education system could do to foster, like some sort of resolution or help your parents in some way, like what would that look like to you?

00;07;41;15 - 00;07;59;05

Unknown

I think they need to know that, it's okay to talk about, you know, what happened, the way with their, No, it's, it's a hard question.

00;07;59;05 - 00;08;12;18

Unknown

I, I think I still have some pieces, when we first came to the United States, I, I, I don't think our family is the only family that, you know, when we, came to the United States, there was.

00;08;12;18 - 00;08;14;11

Unknown

No. You have one minute left.

00;08;14;11 - 00;08;15;18

Unknown

I call right back?

00;08;15;18 - 00;08;16;20

Unknown

Yeah. You sure can.

00;08;16;20 - 00;08;17;21

Unknown

okay.

00;08;18;07 - 00;08;27;06

Unknown

Two. If you would like to permanently water a number, thank you for using Securus. You may start the conversation now. Can you hear me

00;08;27;06 - 00;09;03;26

Unknown

was telling you about my parents. So when we first came to the United States, you know, there was really no American. You know, it's like there were just you got a sponsor to come here and, kind of then just left to your own devices, you know, that my parents, you know, there's things that I mean, there was no counseling or, there's no, you know, place to go to talk about, you know, what is.

00;09;04;03 - 00;09;07;06

Unknown

But,

00;09;07;06 - 00;09;23;00

Unknown

You know, I think about now, it's like I want to growing up, You know, I kind of got to say, you know, when I was out, I... my parents

00;09;23;02 - 00;09;49;26

Unknown

I, you know, I mean, we get along now. I love them, but they weren't the best parents when I was out, you know. Yeah. Yeah. So, because there's a lot of things that I just had to figure out on my own, you know? You know. You know, I tried to figure out. going to school, getting bullied and whatever that thing is, you know, I can't come back and then tell my folks

00;09;50;08 - 00;09;53;15

Unknown

about it. So just.

00;09;53;15 - 00;10;16;21

Unknown

know there's things that that they're going through that I think other parents do, too. So I wish there was some kind of like, I don't know how the rescue program is now when they take in people that, they came from countries at war or whatever.

00;10;16;23 - 00;10;46;22

Unknown

And through a lot of trauma themselves, if there's a way for them to talk about it. You know, I don't think there was anything like that. Yeah. Cause, you know what, they go through, you know, it affects their kids too, you know. Yeah. And you might it might not show, instantly but you know, thinking about it now there's a lot of things that I

00;10;46;26 - 00;11;05;09

Unknown

didn't get. Or didn't understand.

Yeah. Has, access to education. And like specifically, you said liberal arts helps you think, and it starts bringing out these memories.

00;11;05;09 - 00;11;15;11

Unknown

like, has access to that help you? I mean, I know in your submission, you said it helped you understand them some. Do you want to talk any about that?

00;11;15;13 - 00;11;52;15

Unknown

Yeah, so, um know, so, this, this quarter, the theme for this quarter was utopia or utopia societies. Yeah. You know, and, first thing that, you know, I, you know, everybody has something different on what a utopia is. The first thing I thought about was, you know, no, I, I equated

utopia with, you know, authoritarian society, you know, or something that you can't bring that to a full time, you know, someone's vision for everybody else.

00;11;52;17 - 00;12;21;04

Unknown

And, so I. So there's like, little reading if we did and, you know, but, you know, it changed my perspective a little bit. I mean, you could somebody could have, I mean, you could, you could think you could have a utopian way of thinking. Aspire towards something that doesn't have to be bad, you know.

00;12;21;06 - 00;12;39;20

Unknown

Yeah. I mean, it's a kind of quality, a good quality. For their society that you know, but so when I wrote, I wrote a paper and it has kind of I talked about this.

00;12;39;20 - 00;12;46;05

Unknown

am, I am maturity towards learning, about this subject.

00;12;46;05 - 00;12;52;10

Unknown

you know, there's a couple of articles I, I read or pulled from JSTOR.

00;12;52;16 - 00;12;55;06

Unknown

One of them was Portraits of a Dictator.

00;12;55;06 - 00;13;02;05

Unknown

But it's just, talk about Pol Pot and how, you know, his utopian, experimental.

00;13;02;05 - 00;13;21;09

Unknown

When he took over, you know, that was this little, you know, utopian experiment. He wanted to create a society where, you know, where everyone is equal. I mean, not in a good way, but, you know, docile, uneducated and but.

00;13;21;09 - 00;13;31;03

Unknown

brought more questions that, you know, I don't know, things that I want to eventually ask my parents about,

00;13;31;03 - 00;13;42;00

Unknown

was just... reading an article, this whole quarter, I started writing down questions that I want to ask my parents.

00;13;42;00 - 00;13;45;17

Unknown

I want to make sure that I don't hurt them or traumatize them, you know.

00;13;45;17 - 00;13;50;25

Unknown

my purpose I want to tell their story, before it's gone.

00;13;50;25 - 00;13;54;05

Unknown

there's no way that they'll be able to tell it.

00;13;54;05 - 00;13;57;16

Unknown

And they're getting old, and I, I don't want to.

00;13;57;16 - 00;14;09;00

Unknown

I don't want to say it but, with their health and everything, I feel there's. It's important to.

00;14;09;02 - 00;14;22;14

Unknown

Do it before you know. Yeah. while I'm here. Yeah. Yeah. But yeah that's what I've been thinking about.

00;14;22;14 - 00;14;25;12

Unknown

yeah, there's that, there's just there's things that,

00;14;25;12 - 00;14;41;26

Unknown

But then, on my mom's side of the family, that I don't know about, you know, like, how many brothers and sisters she had. I don't know that, you know. What's her mom's name, I don't

00;14;41;26 - 00;14;51;12

Unknown

Like my mom and dad, they, They were part of a Pol Pot utopian vision. You

00;14;51;12 - 00;14;57;28

Unknown

they didn't come together out of love. You know, they were of forced together to then create me.



00;14;57;28 - 00;15;10;20

Unknown

And, so growing up, I didn't understand it. At the time, you know, I always felt like, distant.

00;15;10;22 - 00;15;28;27

Unknown

From my mom'. I kind of understand why now. because, you know, I wasn't planned. What she sees in me, she sees something that Pol Pot wanted. This new society that he wanted to create.

00;15;28;27 - 00;15;30;11

Unknown

that's a lot. That's heavy.

00;15;30;11 - 00;15;31;28

Unknown

You know, it's been,

00;15;31;28 - 00;15;59;19

Unknown

just this past quarter or two has been, you know, it's. It's that, type of education I was talking about. It's like, I, I didn't get that with those other courses, you know? Yeah, I didn't. Bet you. Thank you. Question. No, I struggled I had a similar experience.

00;15;59;19 - 00;16;30;05

Unknown

So, you know, I had, life de facto sentence. So I had 55 years as a 17 year old. Right. And, I wasn't eligible for school either until later in my sentence. And my, my last degree in there was also a liberal arts degree. And I had all these vocational. And, ironically, I did graphic design and print technologies too, and it was because I was in, correctional Services as well.

00;16;30;05 - 00;16;56;23

Unknown

And that's how I got into school as well. I think it's really ironic because we have very similar stories, or backstories, just not the, the, but in our sentencing at least. Right. And, Yeah. And, when I took I my, my last associate's degree was liberal arts. And the class that changed things for me was also it was, called dystopias.

00;16;56;25 - 00;17;25;01

Unknown

And, Yeah. Well, the book for me was, Oryx and Crate and and Oryx story was like my story, and I was like, oh, no. There's, How do we think about this differently? Yeah, I, I agree with you about liberal arts being a different, experience that really transcends the idea of vocational. And yeah, makes you think about how to think.

00;17;25;03 - 00;17;50;02

Unknown

And I think that's something we don't talk about a lot, you know, and especially in the prison context, it's a lot about, like, how do we get jobs skills. Right? But I don't care how many job skills you have. And let me know if you agree here. If you don't know how to think and process like these histories that we all come with, then, then you can't succeed in a job anyways.

00;17;50;05 - 00;18;10;06

Unknown

So, I'm excited you're in this kind of a different kind of learning I. Yeah, it is. I completely agree, you know, like you said, like, most there's a lot of vocational classes here, and, you know, they want you to get out and get a job because they think that just getting a job is going to keep you out of trouble.

00;18;10;06 - 00;18;21;24

Unknown

But, you know, it's. It's teaching a person to, to be rational, to to think, you know, and, you know, that's what I think. That's what.

00;18;21;24 - 00;18;38;17

Unknown

It creates a better person, you know, when you think about what you're doing and, society as a whole, you know, you know, why why I why things the way they are, you know?

00;18;38;20 - 00;18;39;09

Unknown

Yeah.

00;18;39;09 - 00;19;05;23

Unknown

There's a, there's there's so many good podcasts, and, So are you able to access tablet when you were in there? Yeah, but we didn't have podcasts. We, we they were new. So I've. I've only been home for, in July. It'll be two years, so I haven't been around long. I didn't know the one that I had done was in there, actually.

00;19;05;25 - 00;19;33;24

Unknown

Yeah. They have, Have you heard of it now? Yeah. But yeah, it's. We have so many resources. It's just it's, I it's there for people that, you know, want to learn. There's so many things. Podcasts. Yeah. So it's, it's it's changed a lot since you... Since you've been. Yeah. Yeah. That's cool. I'm really glad that there's access.

00;19;33;24 - 00;19;38;09

Unknown

So let me ask you, what's your favorite podcast?

00;19;38;11 - 00;20;14;06

Unknown

My favorite podcast. Well, so the one I been, watching a lot from. Yes, it's a podcast, but it's a video. It's, brand brand commentary. Right. And, that that one that, I saw your story in Nightmares. I, there's a bunch of voices in there too, but just things that, Educational and, and just inspirational stories and success stories.

00;20;14;06 - 00;20;26;10

Unknown

I like to, I like, listen or watch those. Because,

00;20;26;13 - 00;21;01;06

Unknown

Also they got this, I don't know if you... they had a series on PBS a while back, but there's the series is on the tablet now. It's called College Behind Bars. Yeah. Oh I know, yeah. It's in here and you know, my goal is that, going through the whole, the process in, arts, but this is before they had like, I mean, just to play... they didn't have laptops or anything.

00;21;01;06 - 00;21;25;10

Unknown

So... just watching them going through, what I'm going through now, but they've got stacks of books and writing notes. So it's like, has it. I have to I can't say it's hard, you know. Yeah I watch those. Okay. It just. Yeah. Give me that extra motivation you know. Yeah. But I mean education is not supposed to be it's supposed to be hard, right?

00;21;25;11 - 00;21;53;04

Unknown

It's not. It's, I mean, if it's easy, then how do you grow from it? Oh, yeah. So when I, when I feel like, the assignment is tough, it's challenging. You know, I try to tell myself, this is how I'm going to learn, this is how I'm going to grow. Something to challenge me. And think about, think about all the course I took before.

00;21;53;07 - 00;22;27;16

Unknown

And they weren't challenging at all in in part this is why I didn't feel like I learned anything. I mean, to a certain extent from it, as a person, I could grow as a person, like, I mean, I used to learn the vocational skills, you know? Yeah, but I'm learning skills that allow me to, you know, communicate better or think better or I understand people.

00;22;27;19 - 00;22;41;12

Unknown

Yeah. That's why I think they should have more of. Or. I'm just. I'm just amazed that. But right now, there's only 14 students in a class.

00;22;41;12 - 00;22;46;18

Unknown

We started out at 24. And I just think people drop off.

00;22;46;18 - 00;22;57;25

Unknown

I mean there's more to it than that, because of all the Department of Education stuff and, and

00;22;57;28 - 00;23;25;08

Unknown

Have the classes that go through. Yeah. So it's been challenging for Eric's part, too. Yeah. He don't, he don't. He's good at he's very positive. Yeah. It's good kind of, you know, put the negative. Aside. But I know he's doing a lot. It must be frustrating for him, too. Still waiting on certain things that.

00;23;25;13 - 00;23;27;03

Unknown

It's been almost a year now. Oh,

00;23;27;03 - 00;23;31;14

Unknown

having a good instructor, makes a difference, too.

00;23;31;17 - 00;23;59;21

Unknown

I mean, I mean, you spoken with Eric. You know how he is. He doesn't, he has that energy. You know, he loves to teach. He loves to share. So, having him there makes a difference and, bringing in new habits and those have been having him and show them, makes a difference to us.

00;23;59;24 - 00;24;09;20

Unknown

Yeah. Yeah, I, So I have a question in your piece. You say that you were, resentenced,

00;24;09;20 - 00;24;14;29

Unknown

Because the rules about understanding juvenile brain chemistry have changed.

00;24;14;29 - 00;24;24;10

Unknown

what are your dreams for yourself now? Because you started all this without thinking you were coming home, right? And so.

00;24;24;10 - 00;24;26;02

Unknown

What do you think now? Yeah.

00;24;26;02 - 00;24;29;06

Unknown

Right now I'm more uncertain than ever

00;24;29;06 - 00;24;33;21

Unknown

I'm I'm still going to do what I have to do. I need to educate myself.

00;24;33;21 - 00;24;35;11

Unknown

Where, I'm going to end up,

00;24;35;12 - 00;24;36;16

Unknown

I'm not even. I'm not

00;24;36;16 - 00;24;47;03

Unknown

there's so many things I want to do, too. Yeah. And I'm still trying to do whatever it is, I want to continue to tell my story and

00;24;47;03 - 00;25;05;09

Unknown

now, I'm reminded that, there's, You watch Shawshank Redemption? Yes. For. Yes. Yeah. This is a quote by Red. He said, you know, hope, you know, it could be a dangerous thing sometime, you know, when you have too much of it. It can even drive a man crazy.

00;25;05;12 - 00;25;09;16

Unknown

Yeah. But I think

00;25;09;16 - 00;25;25;20

Unknown

we need hope. You know. It's what gets us up. Yeah. But it's the same time that you have to do something about it, you know, you can't just sit there and hope for things that happen and don't make effort to get there. Yeah.

00;25;25;20 - 00;25;30;06

Unknown

Is there anything else you would want people to know?

00;25;33;18 - 00;25;36;22

Unknown

I'm sure our question to. Because,

00;25;36;22 - 00;25;53;04

Unknown

People are just going to think what they think out there. You know, like for some people, no matter what I do, it's never gonna amount to anything. You know, there's always.

00;25;53;06 - 00;26;05;23

Unknown

I mean I, you know, I hurt people and I understand that people are always going to see me as the guy. that hurt

00;26;05;23 - 00;26;08;27

Unknown

like, who are you after that moment?

00;26;08;29 - 00;26;16;19

Unknown

Right. So, like, we're not defined by the worst moments of our lives. We are who we are when we stand back up.

00;26;16;19 - 00;26;20;12

Unknown

So, like, in this moment.

00;26;20;12 - 00;26;21;05

Unknown

Who are you?

00;26;21;05 - 00;26;23;22

Unknown

You know, I wake up.

00;26;23;22 - 00;26;49;06

Unknown

like, I'm it's it's hard to explain. It's like. And why? Who I am now and and why I'm in here. And what I've done I, I still it just, I happened I asked myself the same question and say who, who, how how did that happen.

00;26;49;07 - 00;26;53;24

Unknown

You know how, how did I get there. It's like is this.

00;26;53;24 - 00;26;57;09

Unknown

I don't want to say anything that, take away from

00;26;57;09 - 00;27;01;25

Unknown

what I've done, you know. Yeah, that's where I'm kind of,

00;27;01;25 - 00;27;12;25

Unknown

earlier, you said in our conversation you. When now that there's a possibility of release, you have all these things you want to do. So what are some of those things?

00;27;12;25 - 00;27;18;17

Unknown

I want to be able to. Take care of my parents.

00;27;18;17 - 00;27;48;12

Unknown

I got three sisters that, you know, they're going through their own struggles too, my parents is going through their own struggles, you know, and sometimes it's just not it's not able to help, you know. And, my parents feel like they really. They feel like they can't go to anybody for help.

00;27;48;15 - 00;28;14;23

Unknown

And I talk to them almost every day. You know I'm out for a few minutes. So if I don't call, especially my mom, she starts to worry. They tell me about the things that they're going through and it makes me. I mean I feel you know how it feels to feel helpless enough to help people out there.

00;28;14;25 - 00;28;27;27

Unknown

I feel that almost all the time. I know. And when I do get out, I'll be able to help them.. I wanted to.

00;28;27;27 - 00;28;30;12

Unknown

able to financially support myself.

00;28;30;12 - 00;28;52;19

Unknown

Do you think having this education will help with that? Yeah, I think so. I see, so I, I feel like what I've been doing is just kind of getting some of the vocational stuff I've done is just like a a tool I could use, like, get it out.

00;28;52;19 - 00;28;52;28

Unknown

You know,

00;28;52;28 - 00;29;01;24

Unknown

I like the graphic design stuff. See if there's, know I'm, I'm also taking a paralegal course just to get certified.

00;29;01;24 - 00;29;17;11

Unknown

like, my job being now in TI, I'm a microphone engineer which so make do the process for these signs to change and cut out cabinetry.

00;29;17;11 - 00;29;25;28

Unknown

It's a good job. It's just take a lot of time from my school, too. And so on. So, trying to balance it out is challenging.

00;29;26;00 - 00;29;26;22

Unknown

But

00;29;26;22 - 00;29;34;06

Unknown

is school and work ever a conflict for you. Oh for ugly.

00;29;34;06 - 00;29;48;02

Unknown

We have two night school on the weekdays, and part of the class is all day Saturday, Saturday morning and afternoon. So, it it works perfectly.

00;29;48;06 - 00;29;51;06

Unknown

post. These are just full days. Yeah. Yeah.

00;29;51;06 - 00;30;02;13

Unknown



do have to attend my classes and I'm still at work. I, you know, I. They're they're accommodating, I guess. I don't get in trouble for it.

00;30;02;13 - 00;30;02;17

Unknown  
it?

00;30;02;22 - 00;30;04;11

Unknown  
What do I want to do, I guess.

00;30;04;11 - 00;30;06;04

Unknown  
to do what you're doing.

00;30;06;04 - 00;30;11;06

Unknown  
you're you're you're advocating for,

00;30;11;06 - 00;30;12;16

Unknown  
for us, you know?

00;30;12;18 - 00;30;13;00

Unknown  
Yeah.

00;30;13;00 - 00;30;21;20

Unknown  
know the other side because you've been there, you know, a lot of people out there don't understand. You're trying to get our voices out there.

00;30;21;20 - 00;30;47;03

Unknown  
I think having been incarcerated is, is not something that I would have thought that would have been part of my life. And it's not something that I would have wanted. And I'm really. I carry the harm that I committed very deeply. Yeah. But I also think that it's a responsibility and in some ways, getting a second chance in my life

00;30;47;03 - 00;30;49;04

Unknown  
feel like it's a superpower.

00;30;49;04 - 00;31;13;12

Unknown

Yeah. Because you. Yeah. Like, I don't think people. I think that when you lose everything and then you get another chance, there's a different kind of way that you live your life. I, I, you know, I agree 100%. It's like gratitude. But, yeah, especially when you're young and you, Yeah.

00;31;13;12 - 00;31;20;04

Unknown

Yeah. And you know and the hardest time I think was when I was in county

00;31;20;04 - 00;31;27;00

Unknown

And they, you know like they put me in solitary. I didn't know it was solitary back then. It just, they never let me out of my room you know.

00;31;27;03 - 00;31;28;24

Unknown

Yeah. Oh I turned 18.

00;31;28;24 - 00;31;33;07

Unknown

Just being in a room alone. Not knowing.

00;31;33;07 - 00;31;35;14

Unknown

let's talk about that a little bit. So, like,

00;31;35;14 - 00;31;46;16

Unknown

let's say we take this clip out of this conversation and there's a kid listening that might be in a situation that could be leading that way. What would you want to tell them?

00;31;46;17 - 00;31;49;03

Unknown

Like, what would you tell? What would you wanna tell them?

00;31;49;04 - 00;32;05;18

Unknown

I mean, if you. If you get a chance to talk to Eric. Yeah. If you can ask him, how much I talk in class, which is barely, because, one of my one of the things that I am working on is being able to

00;32;05;18 - 00;32;18;02

Unknown

Speak. You know, and ask questions. I'm not very good at that, especially answering questions. So, this is it's kind of hard on me.

00;32;18;02 - 00;32;22;11

Unknown

some of the questions you ask, like, man, when I get out, we'll have like dang!

00;32;22;11 - 00;32;27;27

Unknown

It's all in my head, just having it come out the way I want it to come out is

00;32;27;29 - 00;32;33;05

Unknown

The challenge. It's always been a challenge to me. Just comes out the wrong way sometimes.

00;32;33;05 - 00;32;37;10

Unknown

think when when you're young.

00;32;37;12 - 00;32;42;09

Unknown

Having somebody just to listen, and not just tell you what you should or shouldn't do with this.

00;32;42;09 - 00;32;55;28

Unknown

when the kids see somebody that's been through what you've been through. And see how, things can turn out or not turn out. You know, and.

00;32;55;28 - 00;32;58;14

Unknown

And they might not get that a chance.

00;32;58;14 - 00;33;08;05

Unknown

Like we did. Yeah. Now because with history changing, you know, plus they might make sure that, they stopped at a loophole.

00;33;08;07 - 00;33;15;05

Unknown

Yeah. Yeah. So I don't want to say, use scare tactics, but.

00;33;15;05 - 00;33;16;23

Unknown

Just make them realize that

00;33;16;23 - 00;33;21;11

Unknown

you know, your choice don't just affect you, but everyone around you.

00;33;21;11 - 00;33;23;04

Unknown

Because, you know, I don't want them doing the time, you know?

00;33;23;04 - 00;33;25;18

Unknown

People who don't get out.

00;33;25;21 - 00;33;29;20

Unknown

What value is education to them

00;33;29;20 - 00;33;38;08

Unknown

how like, let's say you're doing a life sentence, right? Like there's a common thread that if somebody is going to be in prison all the time, they shouldn't have access to education, right?

00;33;38;08 - 00;33;42;07

Unknown

in your piece, you said you had to like fight and fight and fight and fight to get in classes.

00;33;42;07 - 00;33;42;19

Unknown

So

00;33;42;19 - 00;33;56;04

Unknown

What would you say is the value of education, even if you have a long sentence for that person and for that prison community?

Well, the value of education, I mean,

00;33;56;04 - 00;34;13;00

Unknown

you know, the way the DOC think about it, if they want, they want to give education to us so when we get out, they get a job, you know, but they don't understand that, you know, people that are locked up and may never get out.

00;34;13;03 - 00;34;14;00

Unknown

Yeah.

00;34;14;00 - 00;34;35;18

Unknown

Yeah. They might not, you know, get a job. But that education that you give them, you know, is it's more that they just. Spatial skill. You you're you're changing their way of thinking you know. Just like we live our society you know, when you, when you get people to think, you know then it just changes something.

00;34;35;18 - 00;34;42;20

Unknown

in you. It makes a person.

00;34;42;20 - 00;34;49;03

Unknown

kind of hard to. put into words but it's something just clicks.

00;34;49;03 - 00;34;53;13

Unknown

has access to education changed your relationships with

00;34;53;13 - 00;34;58;08

Unknown

staff there or your roommate or people on the unit.

00;34;58;08 - 00;35;03;24

Unknown

when you, do nothing but study and go to school.

00;35;03;24 - 00;35;17;12

Unknown

You see who. You kind of see. I see friends, but like the people that, you know, don't have the same value as you or, you know, things as you.

00;35;17;17 - 00;35;23;03

Unknown

They tend to back off a little bit, you know. And

00;35;23;03 - 00;35;27;13

Unknown

when I'm not at work, and I don't like to sit there in the room,

00;35;27;13 - 00;35;37;13

Unknown

so I just sit and I do is, is, you know, do my homework, study, read and that's all all the other guys see me do. And the staff,

00;35;37;13 - 00;35;40;01

Unknown

they kind of just leave you alone.

00;35;40;01 - 00;35;41;18

Unknown

they know that you know about

00;35;41;18 - 00;35;44;08

Unknown

whatever is going on you know. Yeah. So

00;35;44;08 - 00;35;47;19

Unknown

for the most part I don't have any

00;35;47;19 - 00;35;55;18

Unknown

the guy that that comes in, you know. They see me doing what I'm doing, and,

00;35;55;18 - 00;35;58;15

Unknown

Oh, come up and ask me questions and

00;35;58;22 - 00;36;00;10

Unknown

I want I want to be an example.

00;36;00;10 - 00;36;02;17

Unknown

So the guys come in here

00;36;02;17 - 00;36;20;04

Unknown

see me, do what I can do better myself or in school and it kind of motivates them to do the same thing. They're just sitting down, playing cards, or just do nothing all day? No. Yeah. We used to, sit and and,

00;36;20;04 - 00;36;21;07

Unknown

talk about,

00;36;21;07 - 00;36;22;22

Unknown  
critical inquiry,

00;36;22;22 - 00;36;25;08

Unknown  
that was a new term to me, but like.

00;36;25;10 - 00;36;37;09

Unknown  
Like I'd be like, hey, read this and and that when the person would actually read it and they'd come back and we'd sit there and like, talk about, I don't know, whatever the article was at the time.

00;36;37;09 - 00;36;45;26

Unknown  
It's sometimes it's yeah, you know, like the most interesting conversations are like, this is what you're reading in school. Yeah. What does it mean?

00;36;45;26 - 00;36;56;13

Unknown  
Yeah. And, there's so many terms that is new to me, just taking this class. Yeah. Like, [word], you know, like, they're crippling query, and analysis, and,

00;36;56;13 - 00;37;06;26

Unknown  
And when. People come to ask me and I tell them what I'm learning and they see the stack of books that I got to read

00;37;06;26 - 00;37;09;01

Unknown  
some of them just think - not

00;37;09;01 - 00;37;21;05

Unknown  
for me. Yeah. But, yeah. But then there, there's some that, you know, and I start talking, explaining that, you know, there's some that's actually interested.

00;37;21;05 - 00;37;25;29

Unknown  
You don't even know it. But you're just preparing the next cohort of students

00;37;25;29 - 00;37;27;07

Unknown  
to sign up. Yeah.

00;37;27;07 - 00;37;29;10

Unknown  
Every chance I get. I,

00;37;29;10 - 00;37;43;21

Unknown  
When I first heard of liberal arts and sciences, liberal arts, you know, it's it's, you know, people take this and, like, just, do the politics or something. You. No, they don't understand this about,

00;37;43;21 - 00;37;48;16

Unknown  
kind of freeing your thinking or they can help you think for yourself.

00;37;48;16 - 00;37;56;24

Unknown  
It's more to the course the.... You know, when people first start I know I can I can explain to them. Yeah.

00;37;56;24 - 00;37;59;10

Unknown  
Because one of the guys here, they're waiting.

00;37;59;10 - 00;38;08;25

Unknown  
To graduate from [program name] and be able to... Because right now. They're the only one with the bachelor program.

00;38;08;28 - 00;38;25;00

Unknown  
When it's possible, I don't think there's gonna be a problem of creating a cohort. Yeah. Because this is not. just me. The other guys in class. And it's great. I think just the community right now that we have in this cohort,

00;38;25;00 - 00;38;31;15

Unknown  
it's like perfect. It's just everybody is on the same page. Everybody cares.

00;38;31;18 - 00;38;35;05

Unknown  
They're not there just to get a degree.



00;38;35;05 - 00;38;43;11

Unknown

And then I think there's when I see like this guy named Chuck, in our class, one of the students, he's like 70-something.

00;38;43;11 - 00;38;44;27

Unknown

When I look at him, I say, man, ,

00;38;44;27 - 00;38;52;07

Unknown

it motivates me. Man, this guy's 70-something and still trying to get his BA degree, you know.

00;38;52;13 - 00;38;55;02

Unknown

So it makes me ...

00;38;55;04 - 00;38;58;02

Unknown

It inspires me, to keep doing what I'm doing.

00;38;58;02 - 00;39;12;23

Unknown

I will have enough credit to, to get my degree next quarter. Oh, congratulations. But, yeah, but I, I decided to I guess everything you have an option of going for 225 credits.

00;39;12;23 - 00;39;13;26

Unknown

So I'm going,

00;39;13;26 - 00;39;20;03

Unknown

go for it, and take as many classes as I can.

00;39;20;03 - 00;39;21;22

Unknown

Yes. Hundred percent.

00;39;21;22 - 00;39;34;01

Unknown

Because, for me, it's not it's not just a degree either, you know, it's like. I feel like I'm just now starting to. Try and wake up, you know, understand myself and more.

00;39;34;01 - 00;39;42;20

Unknown

Yeah. I've been on this educational journey for a long time but if I could take this class to make me actually.

00;39;42;20 - 00;39;44;08

Unknown

see things a little differently you know.

00;39;44;08 - 00;39;48;21

Unknown

Well I'm excited to meet you at this moment of, you know, exploration.

00;39;48;21 - 00;39;58;22

Unknown

I, you know, I have my faults and I'm still learning and there's things that, I, I have over time with and I don't, I don't get.

00;39;58;24 - 00;39;59;11

Unknown

But

00;39;59;11 - 00;40;00;03

Unknown

I'm open.

00;40;00;03 - 00;40;01;13

Unknown

I'm going to stay on this path.

00;40;01;13 - 00;40;02;06

Unknown

Now that I see that

00;40;02;06 - 00;40;10;28

Unknown

there's more, there's a lot more to learn. Yeah. And every quarter in this class that I'm learning more things about myself and about,

00;40;10;28 - 00;40;12;13

Unknown

just the world in general, you know.

00;40;12;13 - 00;40;14;16

Unknown

It's just crazy because when I turn on the TV

00;40;14;16 - 00;40;17;16

Unknown

And see what's going on in the world. I think maybe

00;40;17;16 - 00;40;20;25

Unknown

like, little things matters. You know, they do.

00;40;20;25 - 00;40;38;26

Unknown

I just want to apologize ahead of time that some of my answers is not.... Oh. No. I'm going to stop you right there. So somebody recently, somebody recently told me, never apologize, and I'm going to tell you, never apologize, guys, for your answers

00;40;38;26 - 00;40;47;19

Unknown

it's been really amazing to have this conversation. And, I really appreciate your insights into,

00;40;47;19 - 00;40;50;23

Unknown

your own experience into education, into,

00;40;50;23 - 00;40;53;16

Unknown

what you hope and dream in this moment,

00;40;53;16 - 00;40;58;07

Unknown

as you learn more things change and morph and,

00;40;58;07 - 00;40;58;23

Unknown

I think that,

00;40;58;23 - 00;41;00;28

Unknown

learning kind of becomes a lifestyle.

00;41;00;28 - 00;41;04;23

Unknown

It's been, this has been the highlight of my week talking to you, and I don't say that lightly.

00;41;04;23 - 00;41;06;18

Unknown

You've been the highlight of my week, talking to you.

00;41;06;18 - 00;41;08;09

Unknown

Thank you for this phone call.

00;41;08;11 - 00;41;13;09

Unknown

a good rest of your night and stay safe. Okay. Okay. You, too. All right.

00;41;13;12 - 00;41;14;28

Unknown

Bye bye.