

Often times what headlines the news are problems associated with young people. Their lives are cut short and their dreams deferred or forever changed. To begin the discussions and assist with redirections, the students at Sidney Lanier High School were afforded the opportunity to view the documentary, "Inside Out" which documents various prisoners discussing choices that led to their incarcerations. Consequently, these choices made life long impacts on their lives as well as their families and their communities. The goal was to generate discussions amongst students and their advisors concerning choices that will forever impact students' lives. Giving students a different lens to view the impacts would give them reason to pause and to think: "The choices and actions that I make now determine my future."

Advisors (teachers and counselors) were given a video and a list of discussion questions. Once viewing the video, the advisors facilitated the discussions allowing students to reveal more about their understandings and feelings while offering them redirections. The video gave students a wealth of information while challenging them to open discussions and to think.



# INSIDE/OUT

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The film, shot in two Alabama maximum security prisons, exposes the devastating and lasting effects of dropping out of school by those who live with the consequences every day – prison inmates.

# Discussion Questions

1. Imagery allows us to visualize and form perceptions. The beginning of the video shows a man walking down a highway and on the right is a building with a tower. You cannot make out the specifics of the entire building, but as you listen to the music in the background, you begin to form a perception. What is yours?
2. The narrator was a “street kid.” What caused him to be one and what was his message?
3. From where did the narrator receive his inspiration and did this impact his lifelong decisions?
4. How is education related to the quality of life?
5. Several inmates are presented to you. Discuss how their childhoods were shaped and how their lives were impacted.

# Discuss



6. One inmate discussed “lower level” people. Describe who they are and would you be proud to be considered one? Why? Or Why not?
7. All inmates had some common factors but at a point, their lives began to change. What were those factors and why did they change?
8. Describe prison life as the inmates see it.
9. What eventually happens to family members who consistently visit their loved ones while they are incarcerated? How does this impact the inmates?
10. What advice do inmates give to **YOU**?

11. What do the inmates come to realize about themselves and how does this relate to you?
12. All inmates interviewed were LWOPs. Who makes up this group and why would they have a message to give to you?
13. “You were born into this world with a purpose in life.” What does this mean to you?
14. Do you think the inmates were sincere? Why? Or Why not?
15. What is the key to success?
16. The documentary ends with an old Negro spiritual being sung by the narrator and an inmate. What is the message?

