

College Guild
PO Box 6448, Brunswick ME 04011

CAPTIVITIES

Unit 5 of 5

PART 1: CAPTIVES

We have discussed different kinds of captivity in this course, but now let's look at some captives. Many prisoners have achieved great things while incarcerated, and others became huge successes after their release.

1. Match the following ex-prisoners with their occupation. (*answers at end of Unit*)

A – Merle Haggard	_____ TV and Movie Actor
B – O. Henry	_____ President of South Africa
C – Charles Colson	_____ Author of Short Stories
D – Nelson Mandela	_____ Publisher of Inside Journal
E – Martin Luther King, Jr.	_____ Country Singer
F – Tim Robbins	_____ Civil Rights Leader
G – G. Gordon Liddy	_____ Radio Talk Show Host

Mandela, Nelson Rolihlahla (1918 – 2013), South African activist. He won the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize, and in 1994 became the first black president of South Africa. He attended the University of Fort Hare in Alice. He was expelled in 1940 for participating in student demonstrations against apartheid (forced segregation of the races). Mandela finished his bachelor's degree by correspondence from the University of South Africa in 1942. He later studied law at the University of Witwatersrand, and became one of only two blacks to establish a law practice in South Africa upon completion of his degree.

Nelson Mandela became involved in the ANC, the African National Congress, a multi-racial group seeking to bring about democratic political change in South Africa. At first a peaceful group, after South African authorities killed 69 Blacks during protests at Sharpeville, the group abandoned the strategy of non-violence. After one acquittal, Mandela was finally sentenced to five years in prison for leaving the country illegally and incitement. While in prison on this charge, Mandela was tried for sabotage, treason, and violent conspiracy and given a life sentence. Despite being held in maximum security at Robben Island, Mandela managed to keep in touch with the anti-apartheid movement covertly. He was in prison for 28 years, from 1962 to 1990.

While in prison, Mandela wrote his autobiography which was smuggled out. In 1994 he completed the work, and it was published as ***Long Walk to Freedom***. Mandela was then a symbol of resistance to apartheid and changes were in the offing.

In 1993 as South Africa faced enormous pressure from other countries, the president, F.W. de Klerk, lifted the ban on the ANC and began working with Mandela for change in South Africa. This endeavor resulted in de Klerk and Mandela winning the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize. When South Africa held its first multi-racial elections in 1994, Mandela became president.

Mandela worked hard to calm the fears of whites and make the country fair and balanced for all citizens. The South African constitution was rewritten in 1996. It established a federal system with a strong central government based on majority rule. It also contains provisions guaranteeing the rights of minorities and the freedom of expression. Mandela retired, leaving his country a model of democracy in Africa.

2. Without going back to the text, answer the following questions about Nelson Mandela's life.

- a. Nelson Mandela was a prisoner in Mississippi. True or False?
- b. The practice of forced separation of the races in South Africa was called: outsiders or Apartheid?
- c. Mandela earned his bachelor's degree: on campus or by correspondence?
- d. Mandela was already in prison on another charge when he was tried and given a life sentence. True or False?
- e. Does ANC stand for: Angolan Nationalist's Club or African National Congress?
- f. Nelson Mandela practiced: medicine or law?
- g. Mandela wrote: children's stories or his autobiography?
- h. Mandela won: the Van Cliburn Competition or the Nobel Peace Prize?
- i. Mandela was in prison for: 28 months or 28 years?
- j. Mandela took away all rights of whites when he took office. True or False?

(answers at the end of the Unit)

3. Write a story or poem about Mandela or any of the people listed in #1.

PART 2: INSIDE THE WALLS

Different captives throughout history have found different ways to survive their captivity and maintain their sanity. You must have wondered how you would ever live through your trial, the transition from jail to prison, your first few months as an inmate and all the losses that follow.

Many prisoners live only to be free, but some say that prison has saved their lives, that they belong there. Others look at incarceration as "my life now" and don't focus much on outside events and people.

4. Of the following (and you can add others), which have helped you survive imprisonment and how?

5. Which have not helped at all? Why?

humor

anger

religious faith

family

education

helping others

creative expression

educating the public

living in your own world

writing

5. Are you a person you like better now, or has prison brought out the worst in you?

7. What are things you can do “that matter” even though you are in prison?

PART 3: THE CRIME

When a crime is committed, many people are affected. This may include any or all of the following:

offender	defense lawyer
victim	prosecutor
officer (police or correctional)	someone “inconvenienced” by the crime
relative or friend of the victim	someone indirectly hurt by the crime
relative or friend of the offender	professional in social services, parole, education, etc.
jury member	minister, rabbi, chaplain
judge	witness

8. Select any crime (misdemeanor, white collar, felony, murder) and explain how it affects any one of these people.

9. Write out a conversation that takes place between any two of these people.

10. Write a letter from one of them to another.

11. If you were a crime victim, how would you deal with your anger and desire for revenge?

12. Could you eventually be able to forgive the criminal?

13. If you have a victim empathy program in your prison, what is the effect on prisoners who have participated?

If “victim empathy” is not a familiar term, it involves having victims of crimes or family members of murder victims come into the prison and talk to prisoners. These people tell prisoners how the crime has affected their lives, what has been lost from their lives, and about the permanent damage left by the criminal. This can be a very emotional confrontation.

Here is a different point of view:

“We know how the victims felt. We wanted them to feel that way!”

Calbraith Macleod (prisoner and author of the book *Practical Reformation*) believes that it is much more effective for victims to say to the offender,

“You are too pathetic and unimportant to destroy my life. You have inflicted great damage, but I’m going to continue my life – you have no life at all! I’m not going to waste any more time on you.”

Macleod believes that this is much more likely to shake and shock the offender and force him to think about whether he is worth anything and if he wants to continue to be like this. He thinks that victim empathy can feed an offender’s arrogance.

14. What do you think of each of these approaches, and which do you believe would have the best chance for success?

15. which one would have the biggest impact on you at sentencing? Explain.

PART 4: RELEASE

Cartoonist Christian Snyder drew "America's Most Wanted" as a statement about the relationship between communities and ex-cons.



I came in here being 'America's Most Wanted,' and I'll be leaving America's least wanted.

16. Tom gets out of prison after serving 10 years. What is your advice to him as he sits waiting for the bus to take him home? (He asked, knowing you are a College Guild student!)

17. Think about what you have done. If you were able to change it, how would you go about doing that?

What effects have your actions had on others?

What can you do to bring about a change in those effects?

Answers to match the first column to the second in Part 1: F, D, B, C, A, E, G

Answers to the quiz in Part 2: 1. False (South Africa) 2. Apartheid 3. Correspondence 4. True
5. African National Conference 6. Law 7. Autobiography 8. Nobel Peace Prize
9. 28 years 10. False

Since this is your final unit, we'd appreciate any feedback or suggestions you have for improving the course!

Remember: First names only & please let us know if you address changes

APPENDIX A

Excerpts and poems appearing in this course are written by:

- John Yarbrough, *Billy Bubblegum's Lawyer*
- Joe Burgeson, *No Passage*, Frontiers of Justice, Vol 3: The Crime Zone
- Scott Antworth – on religious faith, excerpt from Frontiers of Justice, Vol 3: The Crime Zone
- Scott Antworth – on family, excerpt from Frontiers of Justice, Vol 3: The Crime Zone
- Blake Pirtle – on education / vocational training, excerpt from Frontiers of Justice, Vol 3: The Crime Zone
- Vincent Johnson– *I Saw Inside a Poet's Head*, Frontiers of Justice, Vol 3: The Crime Zone
- Dennis Duchaine – on educating the public, excerpt from Frontiers of Justice, Vol 3: The Crime Zone
- Joe Burgeson – *Looking In Looking Out*, Frontiers of Justice, Vol 3: The Crime Zone