Youth Voices Collaborative
Writing Contest
for youth with juvenile justice experience

Youth Communication is sponsoring a writing contest for young people who have had experience with the juvenile justice system. We are collecting the stories and perspectives from youth in detention and Close to Home sites to learn how the system can be improved.

Who is eligible
Youth ages 14-19 with current or previous juvenile or criminal justice experience.

Write one (of two) essays
Your complete entry, including the form and essay, must be submitted online by September 1, 2020.

Your essay will help the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) create better experiences for other young people who come through the system!

$1000 in prizes
4 winners will receive $250

Enter the contest online: bit.ly/yvc-contest

Deadline: September 1, 2020

Choose one essay topic. Please keep your essay between 250-500 words.

Essay #1
Write a letter to the head of the facility or program you were in. What is a change the institution can make to better support youth while they are inside and prepare them for release? Why would this make a difference? How would it help young people?

Essay #2
Write a story about a time when a staff member asked the right question or did the right thing. What did they do or say? How did it help? How did it make you feel?

Disclaimer: All entries may be used by ACS in full or part for staff development purposes. Writers' identities will remain anonymous.