Criminal Justice Final Project

Presentations will be done on the day of our final exam as scheduled. Extra credit will be given IF the written paper is completed by Monday, May 20th, at the end of class.

The projects are worth 100 points.

60 points for written paper, including citations throughout the paper

15 points for the oral presentation

10 points bibliography in proper form

10 points good use of class time

5 points length, mechanics, and spelling

Papers should be 3-5 pages in length, double spaced, typed

Use plenty of evidence to support your project.

Choose from one of the following projects:

1. Prepare a research paper on life in a correctional institution. (Juvenile facility, prisons, or jail) Include the prison population, programs available, and the costs involved. Describe any practices you think should be changed, and those you think have worked out well. Be sure to document your resources.
2. Prepare a position paper on ONE of the following topics:
3. Prisons should be abolished for all but violent offenders.
4. Prisoners have too many rights (include court cases that have established inmate rights).
5. Juveniles should be treated as adults (include a description of the difference between juvenile and adult courts).
6. Research an average day in the life of a typical inmate. Write down the daily schedule. Then design a daily schedule for an inmate in your version of an ideal prison. Include possible jobs that would be available and or types of treatment. Be sure to explain and defend any changes, additions, or deletions.
7. Prepare a research paper on the correctional institutions of other countries in the world. How are the conditions similar, how are they different? What ideas could we learn in our country from the way other countries treat their criminals?
8. Research one of the special programs offered in our community to help offenders, both adults and/or juveniles.
9. What are the local institutions like?
10. Are there group homes available?
11. What types of diversion programs are offered?
12. Are there any programs available to offenders?
13. Are there any counseling programs available to offenders?
14. Prepare a research paper on the history of capital punishment in the US and in other countries. How has it been used in the past? What methods were used? For what crimes, and the public’s reaction? (Include penal colonies, ducking stool, pillory and stocks, whipping, public shaming, firing squad, hanging, electrocution, lethal injection, gas chamber.) Include the Supreme Court cases throughout our history that have related to the use of capital punishment.
15. Research THREE of the following prisons: Alcatraz, San Quentin, Leavenworth, Sing Sing and Attica. Why are these institutions so famous? Include the age, the type of inmates, the population, any famous inmates and any violence that occurred in these facilities.
16. If you have any other project in the area of corrections that you would rather do, present your case and I will decide if you can use it!