

CONCEPT

The prison pen pal project follows how beneficial it is to take part prison pen pal schemes for both young people writing into those in prison and also young offenders who write back.

The project will include at least one case study of a young woman who writes to a prisoner, investigative interviews with those who work in the prison service and within rehabilitation projects and the negative effects of writing to those incarcerated.

Audio Main Piece



The main three minute piece would lead with case study Kristy Hall, followed up with my prison psychologist Lee Partis, Chief Inspector for Prisons Nick Hardwick, Howard Marks, and founder of the writers in prison network Clive Hopwood. This will give a well rounded idea of how prison pen pals work and can benefit both inmates and people outside.



Online Video



Kristy Hall has agreed to be the project case study and the online video features Kristy's experiences in more depth than the main feature can allow. She talks about her experiences of writing to her prison pen pal Miguel for the past three years.



Online Audio



Famous 60's drug baron Howard Marks was sent to prison for 25 years for smuggling marijuana across the globe. Whilst in prison Howard drew upon his skills as an English teacher to help others write letters to friends and family as well as receiving large amounts of mail himself



Online Feature



After many stories of people falling in love with prisoners and then it turning sour, many prison pen pal websites have been accused of sexualising prison pen pal schemes. This feature has investigated stories of people having been conned by prisoners for money and includes interviews with these site owners. The online feature will be published on the BBC Online Features and Analysis page.



Online Added Value



A Twitter account and blog have been working alongside the project through the entire project tracking my own experiences writing to somebody in prison. It has also includes the full interviews of people featuring in the project. The BUZZ pages will also include a 'Have Your Say' element asking young adults whether they would write to a prisoner.

