

Brief Introduction

Write about a page on your topic. Why are you interested in it? What do you know about it already? What is your thesis? Why did you choose it? What reading have you done about this topic? What are your worries or concerns about this research project? Is there any help that you need at the moment?

My topic interests me because it combines two of my favorite genres: ethics and architecture. My thesis is that prisons should be designed as a form of punishment; this also interests me because I believe that most people would argue that prisons should be designed as a form of rehabilitation, and I would love to write a successful research paper that would allow the audience to second-guess this stance. The root issue is the lack of distinction between the words 'punishment' and 'torture.' Prisons could be designed as a form of punishment but evolve into 'torture' due to the socioeconomic situation of the country; and vice versa, prisons could be designed as a form of rehabilitation but evolve into punishment/torture due to the same reasons. The debate between Scandinavian prisons in comparison to US prisons is not a just comparison as it does not consider the socioeconomic differences, funding, etc. between both countries.

In my research paper I would highlight the fine line between punishment and torture, and thus why punishment is a better approach to prison design than rehabilitation. I will also highlight why the Scandinavian prison model of rehabilitation is not suitable for other countries. I have done some surface-level reading on the topics, and the main concern I have and will continue to encounter is the lack of sources that will support my thesis rather than the audience's. However, I will continue to research, and will read into other analogous situations. I believe that this topic is similar to the debate of 'how/should parents punish their children.' I believe that

Commented [PMM1]: Good point 😊

Commented [PMM2]: I'm pretty sure you'll find them 😊

Commented [PMM3]: Nice 😊

Commented [PMM4]: I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING!
or as in how countries punish each other with sanctions

parents punishing their children is more effective than simply letting them off with a warning; which is what I believe Scandinavian prisons/rehabilitation-models accomplish. This is vastly different, of course, than parents torturing their children through physical abuse – which is the distinction I will argue in my research paper regarding the difference between ‘torture’ and ‘punishment.’ This parenting topic would have more sources, and I believe it is a good start to aiding me in my research.

References

Using APA formatting, list at least two high quality journal articles references that you are considering using.

- 1) Benson, E. S. (2003, July). Rehabilitate or punish? *Monitor on Psychology*, 34(7).
<http://www.apa.org/monitor/julaug03/rehab>
- 2) Larson, D. (2014). American Apartheid: Why Scandinavian Prisons Are Superior. *Prison Legal News*, 25(1), 1. <http://aus.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/trade-journals/american-apartheid-why-scandinavian-prisons-are/docview/1495958721/se-2?accountid=16946>
- 3) Pratt, J. (2008). Scandinavian Exceptionalism in an Era of Penal Excess: Part I: The Nature and Roots of Scandinavian Exceptionalism. *The British Journal of Criminology*, 48(2), 119-137. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azm072>
(This source would specifically help me in arguing that the root cause of the efficiency of Scandinavian prisons is in their government, and not in their prison design.)
- 4) Ljødal, H. K., & Ra, E. (2011). Prison Libraries the Scandinavian Way: An Overview of the Development and Operation of Prison Library Services. *Library Trends*, 59(3), 473-489.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1353/lib.2011.0010>

Planning

Using the formatting of previous students (see writingtheresearchpaper.com), make a very detailed plan for the semester.

As I mentioned above, one of the measures I am taking in order to help with my procrastination issue is attempting to follow this plan as much as possible. I am taking 4 courses, and my **Architecture studio** is worth 6 credits so it has always been my biggest priority. A bi-lateral weekly schedule will provide me with the flexibility I need because of my studio course, since we have DAILY submissions for that course, so please keep that in **mind while reading!** Although there are no dates for the studio, I will always be submitting for the course. Overall, here is my detailed plan of the semester, running parallel to our syllabus:

Weeks 4-5: Structures Quiz on Feb 9th, Grammar Quiz on Feb 17th

Working on the working thesis and organization of the paper. Further research for the research proposal.

Weeks 6-7: Structures Quiz on Feb 21st, Grammar Quiz on March 3rd

Research proposal is due this week so I will be focusing on that. Based on the syllabus, will drafting an introduction at this stage, so I would like to have most of my sources and my main arguments down.

Weeks 8-9: STUDIO MIDTERM on March 8th, Structures Quiz on March 14th, Grammar

Midterm Project due on 17th of March

Rough week! My studio midterm will be my biggest priority here. It is **torture**. Second to that is the Grammar midterm project. Hopefully I will work on my Working

draft/Progress report that will be due for this course between both those submissions, since it is due by the 13th of March.

Weeks 10-11: My Birthday on April 1st

I only have the working draft/progress reports due during these two weeks (alongside the regular studio submissions) hence I will be able to focus more on writing during these two weeks and really accomplish the biggest push around this time. I will be responding to the feedback received and making overall refinements.

Weeks 12-13: Structures Case Study Submission on April 13th, Grammar Quiz on April 14th

Will work on the peer review as well as the abstract during these two weeks. At this point I should be revising the introduction and conclusion and making minor changes.

Weeks 14-15: STUDIO FINAL on April 26th, Structures Case Study Presentations on April 20th/25th, Grammar Final Research Project on the 10th of May

The most dreadful week. The final research paper is due on the 24th of April, two days before my studio final, which is very scary. It will really be a test of my time management skills. Knowing the existence of this clash early on is very helpful, and so I will ensure that by week 13 I will have everything done so that by the 23rd of April I can submit happily with an A on my professor's face.