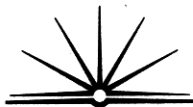


Dear organisers,

I am writing to you in response to your request for texts to be included in your educational program next year. I have just finished reading a novel, written by Scott Monk, titled 'Raw' which clearly deals with many issues within an institution and has many personal experiences which have a great impact on his life. I believe that this text would ~~definitely~~ be very appropriate ~~to~~ to use in your program under the section 'The Institution and Personal Experience'. I'll tell you about the novel and ~~the~~ demonstrate how it effectively would show your students the effect of this institution, in 'Raw' it is a juvenile detention, called 'The Farm' has on individuals in the institution and as a result ~~of its policies~~ of its ~~policy~~ institutional policies in society.

The protagonist, Brett Dalton, is the individual that we see really changes his life, attitude and morals due to the effect of the institution. ~~He comes from a~~  
He is a 16 year old male who comes from a loving family but was involved in petty crimes such

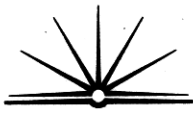


as stealing alcohol until one night he got "busted" and did what ~~he~~ he knew best and "ran". He ~~got caught~~ was caught by the police, other known in Brett's eyes as "the pigs" and taken in a van to a juvenile detention centre, called The Farm, West of Mungindi. This book is great to use in his ~~the~~ program as it ~~is~~ shows the reality of institutions and that not all 'misbehavior' occurs in the city but also in the more ~~small~~ <sup>real</sup> towns such as Mungindi. When Brett arrives at the 'farm' his preconceived ideas of it being like a jail or ~~pr~~ concentration camps was removed. He noticed there were no "bolts, barbed wire fencing" and looked like a school with a cricket pitch and murals on the walls. He ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> introduced to the institution's wardens 'Mary and Sam' who appear to be friendly people, ~~and~~ interested in Brett's background and calling him by his first name, not like the police who called him "the boy". This attitude by the police almost dehumanised Brett as he no longer was considered human to them. Even though Brett could see a stark contrast in attitudes between



the police and Sam and Mary, he still had a rebellious nature and was confident that he could "buck the system".

One might ask how Brett Dalton, a criminal, a rebellious and obnoxious teenager managed to change. This is due to the difference approach by the institution. Sam's approach was one of respect, it has to be earned. He ~~gave every inmate by~~ called every inmate by their first name and gave them ~~many~~ advice. Before Brett and Sam created a friendship, Brett rebelled to Sam's attitude by skipping class and smoking. Brett did not like ~~the~~ The Farm and ran away after only twelve hours. He went to the city of Warragindi and was sure that he could make it in society. He found himself unable to get a job and the pivotal ~~point~~ event which made him realize that he would not cope in society ~~occurred~~ occurred when his personal belongings were stolen by 'James' in the Blue Mustang. For the first time, Brett began to know what it felt like to be the victim of theft and deceit. He realised that society will not accept individuals who are unable to



comply with the rules and regulations especially individuals who have not been rehabilitated, and Brett had it. He returned to the farm as he finally realised that he needed to take control of himself and use Sam's advice that "only you could  $\rightarrow$  change your life".

~~When in the institution, he was able to~~

When in the institution, he was able to excel at skills he never knew he had such as woodwork.

He also was able to experience what it felt like to be the victim of bullying such as ~~abuse~~ when he had his head shaved and possessions stolen by the institutional "hug" Tyson and his cohort.

This text is also appropriate to use for the program as it shows people ~~about~~ the effect of individuals on each other and how one can almost dehumanize one another. ~~Brett's changed attitude~~

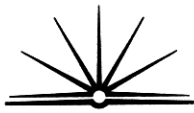
Brett's changed attitude is seen in the incident when the inmates are allowed to go into society to attend the rodeo. ~~Brett, like the~~ Three inmates, ~~Frog~~, including the youngest inmate of just twelve years, Frog, were



not able to handle the free choice in ~~so~~ society and they got involved in trouble. Brett managed to protect Frog from getting involved in a drug dealing and got ~~that~~ physically injured to ensure Frog's safety. This incident demonstrated Brett's learned care and protection for another person, not just for himself, as ~~his~~ he ~~had~~ did prior to The Farm. ~~He also~~ ~~learns~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~institution~~ ~~doesn't~~ ~~rehabilitate~~ ~~enough~~

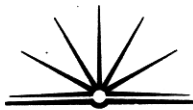
He also learns about "trust and love" from his new girlfriend Caitlyn who Mark uses ~~as~~ through characterisation to represent Brett's future as one of ~~to~~ love and honesty. This love and control is demonstrated when Brett goes on a horse ride to Boomi and has to "tame" the horse. This acts as a metaphor to show how Brett was an uncontrol person who needed the care and ~~into~~ control from the institution ~~to~~ enable to enable a dramatic change in his life.

But ~~not~~ not all institutions ~~do~~ do rehabilitate their inmates which is why this text is good as it shows that Tyson is not able to live in society and is sent



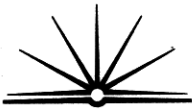
to another prison, unchanged. It also shows how one  
can become reliant on the institution as we learn  
about Josh who was raped as a child and loves  
Sam like a father. He has chosen to rather live in the  
institution and comply by the rules, rather than living  
in society. ~~The effect of institutions is~~

This effect of institutions is seen in the movie  
'Sleepers' directed by Barry Levinson where four  
young boys Marciano, Reily, Sullivan and Lorenzo  
commit petty juvenile crimes but one day  
accidentally kill a hot dog vendor owner and find  
themselves in the "Wilkesboro Home for Boys". Unlike  
the farm in *Rain*, this institution has the overt  
appearance of a school but the covert appearance  
of a hard walled prison. The boys are controlled by  
the sadistic warden Sean Nokes, who contrast to  
Sam chooses to use the institutional policy of  
loss of identity and violence as he marks the boys  
strip naked and are given a number. He also ~~performs~~  
performs "sexual acts and several beatings" which



leave them scared both literally and metaphorically for life. Once they are let free from the prison, two men, Marcano and Reilly, like Tyson, are unable to conform to society as these two men have been "haunted ~~by~~ by our experiences" and become "Kello's kitchen kitchen". They end up killing the warden and die due to ~~drug~~ drug overdoses at an early age. The other two men, Marcano and Reilly have also been haunted but have used the strict violent ways of the institution to help them to conform to society and become successful. As seen this institution is different to <sup>and</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Pan ~~and~~ has different effects but it is a good text to use as it shows a different approach to criminals and even juvenile crimes, resulting in either rebellion or conformity in society as a result of the effects of the institution and ~~his~~ personal experiences.

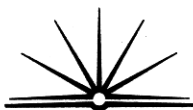
Another text which would be ~~an~~ appropriate to use is an article which I read in the Sydney Morning Herald on 15/8/2011 ~~is~~ written by John Saxby where he interviewed a reporter, Debbie Whitmore who



intrusively photographed the Villawood ~~the~~ Detention Centre. here is a still photograph in the article which shows two young boys holding onto bars. This disturbed me as unlike the inmates in Raw ~~where~~ and sleepers who are forced to attend the institutions, <sup>due to crimes committed</sup> these boys are refugees who have not done anything wrong to ~~deserve~~ to be here. They are sick and lone and have resorted to ~~repeated~~ ~~harsh~~ harsh treatment and boredom by "sewing their lips together" and "hunger strikers". This image ~~also~~ shows the loss of freedom and childhood that these boys are experiencing. Whilst Whitmore was photographing the institution she met a family who are refugees from Iran. Their son Sajan, just seven years old had been in the institution for 13 months and has suffered "physical and mental post traumatic stress syndrome". His arms lay draped over his father as he was too weak to speak. He has been unable to live in society as he is too traumatized by the effect of his institution and needs to live in a hospital.

These texts show how difference institutions chose to rehabilitate





or reform their inmates but not all institutions have a positive effect, but ~~of~~ often are detrimental and threatening to an individual. They are very appropriate for his program and could inform people on the topical issue about 'do institutions have a purpose' and make people question the success rate of conformity and rehabilitated individuals in our society once released.

Hope this helps with your educational program. Please feel free to contact me for any more information.

Yours faithfully,  
Mike Smith.