

Chapter 11

11.1 Critical Thinking

1. In comparison to male prisoners, why do you think that there is less violence, interpersonal conflict, and interracial tension in women's prisons?

One reason is that female prisons have a lower rate of violent offenders; another is the customs and traditions of women's prisons, which place emphasis on pseudofamilies that cut across racial lines.

2. Should very young children of incarcerated women be allowed to temporarily live with their mothers in prison? Why or why not?

This is a debatable topic, but many people feel that infants and toddlers should be allowed to be with their mothers.

11.2 Critical Thinking:

1. What do you think could be done to further professionalize corrections work?

Answers can include offering higher pay, making efforts to change the low status of the profession, and requiring higher qualifications.

2. What are some ways you can think of to add selectivity to correctional worker recruitment?

The most obvious way is to raise salaries for correctional workers. Higher salaries will attract more qualified applicants. Another way is to raise standards for hiring correctional workers. Try to think of as many other options as you can.

11.3 Critical Thinking:

1. What do you think are legitimate complaints from prisoners?

Legitimate claims from prisoners include truthful claims of brutality, harassment, lack of protection from more violent inmates, lack of essential services such as medical treatment, and being denied basic religious rights (along with the dietary restrictions that may accompany these beliefs).

2. What constitutional rights do you think should be extended to prisoners? Or do you think prisoners already have too many rights? Why?

Many people feel that inmates have enough protections as it is. In fact, you might think that granting more rights to prisoners could jeopardize the security and order of prisons. However, it should be clear that certain protections, like the protection against cruel and unusual punishment and access to legal information, are necessary to a fair and equitable judicial system.

11.4 Critical Thinking:

1. Do you think anything could be done to lower recidivism rates amongst offenders? If so, what?

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CRITICAL THINKING ANSWER KEY

Students will probably state that the current correctional system needs to take a new approach to rehabilitation. Even if it did not work before, they should renew their efforts in order to slow down crime and recidivism rates.² In your opinion, should prisoners be allowed to reduce their time in prison through parole or good time? Why or why not?

Those who believe in ‘truth in sentencing’ think that prisoners should serve the entire time sentenced. Other people note that parole and good time help reduce prison overcrowding and give prisoners incentive to follow prison rules.