

Dear Friends:

Today is a happy day for me. I've been reunited with my longtime friend Chris Jeburk. We first met at USP Atlanta in 1997 and we went on to do time in Atwater, CA and Big Sandy, Kentucky. It's been a couple years since I've seen him. I got him into teaching GED classes in 2005-06 while at USP Atwater. He's very good at Math and Science and I handled the Writing, Reading and Social Studies. We have both stayed on a positive path and I am looking forward to helping him publish his first book.

Damar has gotten on my nerves all day long. He recently moved into the cell with Shannon. Every day they are complaining about living together. Both have had some terrible experiences with cellmates. Shannon was recently forced out of a cell so it was a great opportunity for him to be able to live with Damar. Shannon don't like to sleep with music; Damar can't sleep without music. Shannon likes to stay up late at night and read books; Damar likes to go to bed early. They argue about just everything.

And it really runs me crazy. I listen to them go back and forth over the simplest things. Damar pissed all the staff off today by asking for a chair. The chair in his cell had been removed. He asked everyone - including the warden - about a chair. They have so much other things to deal with and he spent his entire day looking for a chair. He still didn't get one. This is what I deal with all day long.

Class today was crazy. The students were given a writing assignment that they couldn't complete - The first topic was: Who Would You Die For? Most of them said their kids. One said a girlfriend and one said his mother. But none could give me 3 reasons why they would die for them. One student - Dezman Russell who is 24 said, "Just because!" The essay requires that the students write an introduction paragraph and 3 body paragraphs and a conclusion. A total of 5 paragraphs. And each of the body paragraphs must have specific details and examples.

The class broke out in disruption when one of the students told another one to shut up. It went crazy. I had to calm them down and give a lecture on respect. They all listened and then I gave them a more simpler topic: Why Should You Be Free? And believe it or not - they choked up on that one too!!! Some said so I can take care of my family. Some said so I can get high and f... hoes!!! That resulted in another 10 minute lecture on values. It's a crazy job but someone has to do it. For 12 cents an hour - could you or would you do it. To be honest - I love my students and I love my job. I wouldn't give it up for nothing else in prison.

Well, right now I am helping Shannon with his Construction class homework. He is struggling with fractions and can't get the reducing down. He'll get it eventually.

Stay tuned for my weekend report...

Love you all...

Cedric