Table of Contents

What Prison Is Really Like	
R. G The writer thinks jail is a joke—until he gets sent there.	13
Busted!	
Gia Minetta	17
Gia describes her nightmare journey through the	
criminal justice system before the charges against her are dropped.	
What to Do if You're Stopped	
Phillip Hodge	24
Police and teens describe how young people should conduct themselves if they are stopped by the police.	
Loose Cannon	
Fred W	27
After being arrested for assault, Fred is sent to a	
residential treatment center, where he eventually finds	
help to deal with his anger and his violent past.	
Frontin' for Respect: Life at Rikers	
José R	35
A day in the life of a young inmate.	

Crazy Kids	
Anonymous	. 39
New brain research confirms what the writer knows	
from personal experience—teens have lower impulse	
control than adults.	
Confessions of a Shoplifter	
Norman B	. 44
Norman isn't proud to admit it, but he was once a	
world-class shoplifter. Therapy helps him overcome the addiction.	
Brick Walls of Justice	
Bönz Malone	. 50
In jail, Bönz meets another inmate who teaches him a	
lesson about accepting responsibility for one's actions.	
Who Gets a Second Chance?	. 57
An interview with Judge Michael Corriero, who	
explains why he supports alternatives to incarceration.	
A Range of Alternatives	
Madeline Legister	. 61
A brief look at how alternative-to-incarceration	
programs work.	
My Life as a Thug	
Patrick A	. 63
Patrick describes how he fell into a life of crime, and	
how he got out.	

What's the Charge?
Max Moran
Max is arrested for no good reason. He spends 24
hours behind bars and ends up feeling kidnapped by
prejudiced cops.
Dignity and Respect
Jan Nicole Garcia74
The "Missouri model" of juvenile justice emphasizes
youth development, rather than harsh punishments—
and it's been highly successful.
A Day in the Life
Anonymous
The writer describes life at Riker's Island jail, where he
spent eight and a half months.
My Little Bouts With the Law
<i>Mariah Lopez</i> 81
Mariah shows how foster care, and her search for a
sense of belonging, led her into trouble with the law.
Life After Prison
Tanisia Morris86
Teens in a youth leadership program describe the
humiliations of the juvenile justice system and how
they hope to change their lives.

Teaching From Their Mistakes
Sheela V. Pai89
Sheela interviews two young people who turned
away from lives of crime and now make motivational
presentations to other youth.
Get Out and Stay Out
Fred W
Fred presents teen ideas on how to prevent youth from
becoming repeat offenders.
Time for Change
An interview with New York's head of juvenile justice97
Commissioner Gladys Carrión talks about her efforts to
reform New York State's juvenile justice system.
Stories From the Inside
Three teen inmates from a secure detention center write
about how they ended up there, and where they hope to
g0.
A Wake-Up Call
Juanita Raymond106
Juanita profiles Josue A., 17, who describes his efforts
to straighten out his life after being arrested for a
mugging.

Shocked into Action	
Olivia Rosenthal	111
Outraged by the unfairness of the juvenile justice	
system, Olivia embarks on a campaign to educate	
people about the system.	

Using the Book

Teens: How to Get More Out of This Book116
How to Use This Book in Staff Training117
Teachers & Staff: How to Use This Book in Groups118

Credits	120
About Youth Communication	121
About the Editors	124
More Helpful Books from Youth Communication	126