

## Schools Are Like Prisons...

Schools are like prisons because both institutions changed my sister's life. A lot of the opportunities she wasn't able to take advantage of were because they didn't care what her story was. Neither do. The people up-top are making decisions that end up changing people's lives. They half-assedly try to shape people's lives. Things of such a psychological and sociological matter should not be left to people who consider it their job. You see, these places are as helpful as being chained in a dark room, the key lying in one of the corners.

But, I'm glad I know this cause now I can help those who need it. I'm thankful for those that helped me. The programs at my school that were aimed to help a 'sista' out were available to others. The programs at the jails helped educate my brother.

But don't be fooled we don't just need reform. We need total reparation to the broken systems. We need to, as a society, look at the horrific situations and just be real about their existence. Women shackled to the stirrups, can't move, givin birth in a jail. Students going to school. Hearded masses passing through the metal detectors. Don't forget your ID. \$1 for a replacement, but that was lunch money to buy my chips. Yelling by security guards with a bad temper and stanky breath. There's no escape just like in jail. There's no choice. You are there for a certain time and once you get out of the system it has changed you - both school and jail.

*By Marta Aguila (High School Student written on at Suspension Stories event - April 17<sup>th</sup> 2010).*