

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Grafton Correctional Institution
2500 S. Avon Belden Road
Grafton, Ohio 44044

DOPE IS FOR DOPES JUVENILE OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Dope is for Dopes Outreach Programs a group of convicts who wish to encourage others not to travel the same roads they have, which only ends in Prison or the Graveyard.

The stories and experiences that are recounted are all true. Nothing is fabricated and the group does not try to "Scare you Straight." The members of the outreach program want to appeal to your intelligence, because you are all rational and thinking human beings. We want to remind you that it is better to learn from our bad decisions, rather than make the same bad decisions and call them mistakes.

We don't want you to end up in prison or an early grave, so please take heed to our message.

The outreach program originated from a play and television movie of the same title: that warned against being involved in drugs. We're taking it a step further and saying don't be involved in drugs or any crimes!

EXCERPTS FROM PRESENTATIONS

The inmates involved in the "Dope is for Dopes Program" speak on a variety of subjects. All are aimed at encouraging today's youth to avoid drugs, as well as other forms of criminal activity. The message is clearly **STAY IN SCHOOL, WORK HARD, AND DISPLAY ONLY HONEST AND POSITIVE BEHAVIOR.**

The needs for positive role models are portrayed as various inmates relate how their lives were disrupted because they failed to look up to appropriate role models. Copying the behavior of the Dope man became a way of life for many inmates incarcerated. As we look back on our lives we can see that had we strove to copy the behavior of doctors, lawyers, businessmen, teachers, professional athletes, and other more respected member's of society, we could have avoided coming to prison.

Each of the speakers makes a conscious effort not to say that he made a "mistake". We prefer to admit that we've made "bad decisions". Mistakes are easily forgiven; thus the individual may feel free to make the same "mistake" again. Bad decisions that the inmates admit to have made helps to emphasize that nobody has to come to prison. The freedom of choice is always present, so choose to become one of life's success stories instead of one of life's convicts.

Today many youngsters are influenced by the desire to possess the best of everything. From fancy tennis shoes to sporty cars, many inmates believed that they could not live without the material best. Some inmates were addicted to the material, which caused them as much trouble as drugs to others.

Each day the news is filled with stories about people young and old who are involved in alcohol related accidents and crimes. The Dope is for Dopes inmates speak out about how alcohol has often created turmoil in their lives. The loss of life that all too often accompanies an alcohol related incident has resulted in many otherwise law-abiding people to break the law and get incarcerated. The decision to drink and party is not only bad decisions, but also quite possibly a deadly decision.

Not being able to read the simplest words is a big problem among prison convicts. We've all heard the slogan "A mind is a terrible thing to waste" but many prisoners are locked up because they didn't believe the slogan was true. Choosing to remain in the street and life of crime rather than pursuing an education is a sure way of not learning to read; thus not being able to fill out an application for a job. How embarrassing! Spend time in a book instead of behind bars.

Many of us are locked up saying, "I WISH I WOULD HAVE LISTENED..." To keep from coming from coming back to prison, "NOW WE'RE GOING TO LISTEN".