



Southwest Prison Writers: Pen Project Poetics

AUTHORS Kamala Platt and Lance Graham
COLLECTION EDITED BY Baz Dreisinger

COLLECTION

Incarceration Nations
Network

EDITION

1st edition

MARKET

College/higher education
and Professional and
scholarly

This course reading...

- Features a diverse collection of poems, prose, and images from current and formerly incarcerated writers in New Mexico and Arizona.
- Highlights the impact of the Pen Project, a student internship program that supports incarcerated writers' creative development.
- Provides insights into the personal experiences and reflections of writers facing incarceration, including themes of survival, love, and wrongful convictions.
- Includes materials used in the program and reflections from students and authors, offering inspiration for similar educational and volunteer initiatives.
- Suitable for academic courses in Prison Literature, American Studies, Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Creative Writing.

Have you ever wondered how the power of writing can transform lives behind bars?

Southwest Prison Writers showcases a powerful collection of poems, prose, and images from current and formerly incarcerated writers in New Mexico and Arizona. These authors, participating in a student internship program at Arizona State University, share their personal experiences and creative expressions—ranging from reflections on imprisonment to dreams of a future beyond prison walls. This collection includes both seasoned and novice writers, with contributions that illuminate the importance of expression and creativity in survival and well-being.

Ideal for courses in Prison Literature, American Studies, Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Creative Writing, as well as institutions and educators interested in carceral studies and transformative writing programs.

Kamala Platt teaches creative writing, literature, and film courses at ASU's School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies. **Lance Graham** is an Instructor in the English BA Program at ASU's West Valley Campus, focusing on composition, literature, and the Pen Project Internship.

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