Stage 1: Preliminary Research

Topic:
The focus of this literature will be to explore the effectiveness and issues surrounding the various forms of military boot camp on reforming a person. I chose this topic because I have had friends in boot camp and they are all split on what boot camp actually did for them. Some believe the only positive was that they were able to get into a high physical condition, while some believe it actually did help them with their thinking and personality. This topic is also interesting as I am exploring a career in policing and the topic of boot camps with the purpose of reform seems to slightly relate to policing and trying to help criminals reform.

Proposed Subheadings

Effectiveness of boot camps: What has the literature concluded from studies about the actual effectiveness of boot camps. Using a lot of sources for this heading as this is a very hot button issue; the literature seems not in favour of boot camp being the only factor in reform.

Effects on Recruits: A big issue with boot camps have been how there is a big amount of stress physically and mentally on the recruits. This section will use the literature to show how boot camps affect the recruits in their thinking, self-esteem, behaviour and even physically.

Why Send a Person to Boot Camp? This section is devoted to the reasons why a person may be sent to a boot camp and what the reasoning behind sending a person might be. The literature will provide arguments for why people should or shouldn’t be sent.

Effects on the Families of Recruits: This section will expose literature conclusions about the effects of sending a person to boot camp causes on the relationship of the child/young adult and family. The literature seems to be split in their beliefs.

This source explores how and why the use of boot camps reached its peak and why it declined. This source starts by showing how boot camp may be appealing to people and how it takes the “getting tough” approach to reform. This article states that boot camps are the common sense approach and argues that changing times mean that boot camps are losing their effectiveness. This article is written by four university professors, three of whom reside in the University of Cincinnati. The other resides at the University of New Brunswick at Saint John. This article is published in The Haworth Press, which is a highly regarded website that publishes mostly professional material and journals.


This source explores how boot camps are used to treat conduct disorders. This source focuses on if this approach to treating of conduct disorders is effective for sufferers. This source takes a look at the uses of boot camps in reform and also takes a look at controversial arguments that discredit boot camps. The author of this article is a doctoral student in adolescent and child track at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Chicago, Illinois. She specializes in effective treatments in at-risk youth.


This source starts by explaining what a boot camp is and the kinds of restrictions and rules that some abide by. The article explores what the goal of a boot camp sentence is trying to accomplish. The methodology is also explained through an example of a Lakeview Institution. The article takes a look at how success is measured and it tests the boot camps assessment of learning and theories of teaching. This article is published in The Journal of
Correctional Education which is dedicated to publishing professional written articles that delve into ways educating people in correctional options.


This source argues that boot camp has provided many unsuccessful results but even with this finding, boot camps are still around in operating. This source explores why boot camps have been spared and how they can be changed to work. The source argues that boot camps reflect the United States justice model which is why they are seen as effective, even though the article also argues that the justice system is failing. The article is also arguing that the public has been given disillusionments as to the effectiveness and the effects of boot camps. This article is published in The Haworth Press, which is a highly regarded website that publishes mostly professional material and journals. The author, Dr. Jeanne B. Stinchcomb is the professor on the faculty of Florida Atlantic University's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, where she also coordinates the Master of Justice Policy and Management Program. She has over 25 years of teaching at college and training levels. She has also held numerous administrative positions on the staffs of federal, state, and local justice agencies reaching from the FBI in Washington, DC, to the Miami-Dade Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. She also serves as a consultant to the National Institute of Corrections and the American Correctional Association. She has been appointed to chair American Correctional Association’s national Correctional Certification Commission.