

requested a book on the subject from the prison librarian and proceeded to teach himself. A few weeks later, I saw origami creations everywhere—flowers, dragons, and birds—all made by the guys and all done carefully and beautifully. Ken had taught his fellow inmates. Another great thing that this group has undertaken is the sponsorship of four children through an orphan relief program. The men make almost nothing at their various jobs within the prison, but what they do make they are more than willing to share, something many of us never seem to “get around to.”

6 It is true that the men value the presence of a female, but not for sexual reasons. The men inside Monroe are hungry for outside companionship and understanding. They’re hungry for a woman’s viewpoint and conversation. They have treated me as a friend, valued my conversation, and never made sexual advances. The men behind the walls are reaching through their bars not menacingly, but pleadingly—begging the outside world to take a good look at them. The men need to be looked at as people and as fellow humans in this world. Most of them are aching for a second chance at life and relationships. This is not a place for outsiders to fear, but a place to which outsiders can bring light, hope, and understanding.

7 My point is not to condone the crimes that these men may have committed in the past, but to look to the present and the future by seeing these men not as “inmates,” but as individual people trying to succeed in the kind of life they now have to live.

Answer the following questions. Be sure to write in complete sentences with complete thought, paying attention to spelling and punctuation.

1. What is the SUBJECT of Carp’s essay?
2. What do people in her AUDIENCE most likely think about her subject?
3. What is Carp’s PURPOSE in writing this essay? What does she set out to “prove” to her readers?
4. What sentence is Carp’s thesis or what can you identify as the main idea for the entire essay?
5. Pretend Cheryl Carp is in your peer feedback group. What would you tell her is a strength of her writing? What has she done well? (Point out at least TWO specific examples.)
6. Pretend Cheryl Carp is in your peer feedback group. What would you tell her is a weakness of her writing? What would you suggest to her to help her strengthen the work? (Point out at least ONE specific example.)