

# Father's Day

(Director: André Hörmann, Germany 2020)



## Worksheet

- 1 While watching the film again, pay attention to the daily routines in Destyne's prison life. Take notes. Then discuss your findings with a partner.

- 2 Read the text about correctional boot camps in the United States. Identify important facts and statements by underlining and taking notes in the margin. Then get together with a partner to discuss your findings as well as any questions you may have.

- 3 What do you learn about the film's protagonist, Destyne Butler Jr.?

Take notes in the following chart. Then discuss and complete your findings in your group.

**PROS**

**CONS**

--	--

Discussion phrases

<i>Giving opinion</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I would say... <input type="checkbox"/> I strongly believe that...	<i>Agreeing</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I couldn't agree more. <input type="checkbox"/> You're absolutely right.	<i>Suggesting</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I'd like to suggest that... <input type="checkbox"/> It seems to me we should...
<i>Clarifying</i> <input type="checkbox"/> So in other words you think...? <input type="checkbox"/> Well, what I am trying to say is...	<i>Disagreeing</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I'm afraid I don't agree with you there. <input type="checkbox"/> I understand the point you're making, but...	<i>Giving in</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I didn't take that into account. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, you do have a point there.

## What are Correctional Boot Camps?

## Notes

Boot camps are part of the correctional and penal system of some countries, best known for their use in the USA. Boot camp is sometimes offered as an alternative to a regular jail sentence when a teen has committed a nonviolent crime. Instead of spending several years in prison, young criminals spend 120 days in boot camp. The camps aim to correct the criminal behavior of young citizens and therefore to reduce recidivism rate.

Modeled after military recruit training camps, these programs offer a strict environment that focuses on discipline and physical exercise and labor. Consequences for misbehavior include physical exercise and loss of privileges such as food, water, and shelter.

Many people believe that correctional boot camps are effective and helpful to young criminals. Proponents believe that through discipline, youths learn to replace bad habits with good ones. The daily routines teach inmates to respect authorities, obey rules, appreciate their own lives, and focus on their future rather than dwelling on their troublesome past. Studies show positive short-term changes in attitudes and behaviors; most inmates also have better problem-solving and coping skills after their release. Also, the military-style physical exercises keep the inmates healthy and fit. Most importantly, these programs allow young criminals to reintegrate into society after only a few months instead of wasting the better part of their formative years locked up in prison.

However, critics have called these practices ineffective and harmful, with many denouncing the military drill as brainwashing and a violation of Human Rights. Studies suggest that only those boot camps with a therapeutic component (such as education, drug treatment and counseling) have a positive effect on participants and reduce recidivism, while those that consist only of physical activity have a negative psychological effect. A key criticism is that the emphasis on authority can only result in frustration, short temper, a low self-esteem, and aggression rather than respect. This could increase recidivism rather than reducing it. Some boot camps have even been the subject of abuse scandals. The New York Times revealed that there were over 30 known deaths of youths in U.S. boot camps between 1980 and 2009.

As criticism grew, more and more correctional boot camp facilities have been shut down. But many politicians still argue that boot camps, if conducted judiciously, hold great potential for young criminals' resocialization.

penal system (n): Strafvollzugssystem • recidivism rate (n): Rückfallquote (bezogen auf Kriminalität) •  
coping skills (n): Bewältigungsstrategien • proponent (n): Befürworter:in, Verfechter:in •  
denounce (v): anprangern • judicious (adj): vernünftig

Text based on the following sources:

Collinge, S. (2012): The Juvenile Boot Camp Debate. [cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/605391/Look%20Insides/5th%20Grade/5.2%20Look%20Inside%2015.pdf](http://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/605391/Look%20Insides/5th%20Grade/5.2%20Look%20Inside%2015.pdf)

U.S. Department of Justice (2003): Correctional Boot Camps. Lessons From a Decade of Research. [ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/197018.pdf](http://ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/197018.pdf)

[spiegel.de/politik/ausland/boot-camps-in-den-usa-das-versagen-der-drill-maschine-a-526461.html](http://spiegel.de/politik/ausland/boot-camps-in-den-usa-das-versagen-der-drill-maschine-a-526461.html)

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boot\\_camp\\_\(correctional\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boot_camp_(correctional))

[crimesolutions.ojp.gov/ratedpractices/5](http://crimesolutions.ojp.gov/ratedpractices/5)