

ECI BOOK DISCUSSION PROGRAM: MAIN INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

IN A NUTSHELL:

Each volunteer (or pair of volunteers) chooses a book to read and lead a discussion on it with a small group of incarcerated men at the Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI), in Westover (MD).

- SU volunteers must be over 21.
- SU volunteers can lead a discussion group by themselves or in pair.
- ECI participant group size varies but there are usually around ten people signed up per group.
- Each group meets once a week for as long as it takes to discuss the whole book (usually 4-6 weeks). You can extend your involvement by choosing another book to discuss and continue meeting with your group. Just let the librarian and Dr. Van de Wiele know.

PROCESS TO VOLUNTEER:

1. Attend the SU Interest Meeting or reach out to Dr. Van de Wiele (axvandewiele@salisbury.edu) for an individual orientation.
2. Fill out the application provided and email it to Dr. Van de Wiele.
3. Once your application is approved, you will receive an email with instructions to complete the Volunteer Training at ECI.
4. Choose a book from the West Side or East Side book list and let Dr. Van de Wiele know.
5. Once you have completed the ECI training, you will be informed when you are cleared to come to lead your book group.

INSTRUCTIONS ON LEADING A DISCUSSION AT THE PRISON:

Before going to ECI, please:

- call to check that the prison is not in lock down and can receive visitors. Phone number: 410-845-4000 (West Side: x6423; East Side: x6226 or x6227).
- make sure to take off all your jewelry before going.
- wear a bra without metal underwire support (eg. sport bras). Otherwise, it may trigger the metal detector and you will be turned away.
- wear business casual clothing (you may not wear jeans, shorts, form-fitting or revealing clothing, as well as short sleeves). ECI has a dress code that is strictly enforced, and you will be turned away if your clothing is deemed inappropriate (see instructions provided at the ECI training for details).

After parking, go through security. Please make sure to:

- bring only your car keys and ID with you (leave your phone and any valuable - eg. credit cards) in the car.
- only sealed water bottle or empty reusable clear water bottle are authorized.
- Follow instructions to go to your designated Education Building on the East or West Side.

At the discussion, please:

- introduce yourself briefly using your first name, last name, or nickname. You can also talk about your major at SU but avoid sharing personal information about yourself (eg. where you live, your phone number...). Keep a professional distance with the participants both with the information you share and physically (see instructions provided at the ECI training for details).
- ask participants how they would like to be addressed, but do NOT ask them personal information or why they are incarcerated. They will share as time comes if they want to.
- stay open to all perspectives and approach disagreements with curiosity, not judgement.
- make sure to give space for everyone to speak but it's ok if not everyone wants to.