

# Untitled

by Mary Ann

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## General metrics

**4,895**

characters

**721**

words

**29**

sentences

**2 min 53 sec**

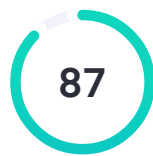
reading  
time

**5 min 32 sec**

speaking  
time

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## Score



This text scores better than 87%  
of all texts checked by Grammarly

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## Writing Issues

**18**

Issues left

**6**

Critical

**12**

Advanced

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## Writing Issues

<b>6</b>	<b>Correctness</b>	
<b>2</b>	Comma misuse within clauses	<hr/>
<b>2</b>	Determiner use (a/an/the/this, etc.)	<hr/>
<b>2</b>	Incorrect punctuation	<hr/>

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## Unique Words

Measures vocabulary diversity by calculating the percentage of words used only once in your document

**47%**

unique words

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## Rare Words

Measures depth of vocabulary by identifying words that are not among the 5,000 most common English words.

**38%**

rare words

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## Word Length

Measures average word length

**5.6**

characters per word

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## Sentence Length

Measures average sentence length

**24.9**

words per sentence

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# Untitled

The prison system, established on compulsory minimum sentences and three-strikes laws, is ingrained in the American approaches to crime and drug policies. The debate nowadays on whether or not to go back to these punishments is more critical in contemporary society. It has become clear over the decades that in response to the increased rates of drug use, policymakers have increasingly harsh sentencing regimes on the belief that longer prison terms will keep the offenders off the streets and keep the neighborhoods safe. In considering this argument in its entirety, it is important to take into account both sides of the argument and critically evaluate the merits of the evidence behind imprisonment, deterrence<sup>1</sup> and the overall safety of society.

Advocates of tough on crime claim that strict and inflexible sentencing keeps people safe through incapacitating dangerous people and also through consistency in sentencing. Its advocates argue that mandatory minimum sentences will ensure that repeat and serious offenders are out of the community and promote consistency in sentencing practices (Nellis, 2024). They also state that when judicial discretion is diminished through the advertisement of such predictability, this sends a bold message to the offenders of drug-related offenses. Similarly, other researchers, including Sanchagrin (2021), reported that a more rigorous incarceration led to the reduction<sup>2</sup> in crime during the 1990s.

However, the argument against reinstating these policies is considerably more persuasive as<sup>3</sup> studies have continually demonstrated that increased prison terms possess constrained deterrent consequences. According to a report by the Council on Criminal Justice, findings show that longer imprisonment,

especially longer sentences, does not have a significant impact on reducing future criminal behavior (Pryzbylski et al., 2023). This is a direct challenge to the absolute rationale behind mandatory minimum sentencing as a promising crime-control measure. On the same note, an analysis by Pew<sup>4</sup> Charitable Trusts (2018) found no significant connection between the state rate of drug incarceration and five indicators, including drug use, drug arrests, or drug overdose deaths. These results indicate that increasing incarceration levels does not contribute much to decreasing drug-related harm and enhancing overall safety in society.

Additionally, these policies have huge racial implications, and this is very worrying. The sentencing laws, especially the mandatory minimums and three-strike policies, which were enacted during the War on Drugs, have played a significant role in this mass incarceration proliferation. In the modern world, about 45 percent of the federal prison population is incarcerated due to drug-related offenses (Galov, 2025; Porter, 2023). The communities of color have been overburdened and have been the most severely impacted by these punitive policies. Almost 200 thousand years after the emergence of mass incarceration, almost two million people are in prisons and jails throughout the United States (Porter, 2023). The reintroduction of such policies would only, most likely, widen these inequalities with no substantial benefits to the common good of the citizens and their trust in the justice system.

Conversely, there is growing evidence in favor of rehabilitative interventions, especially prison-based interventions or treatment programmes. Evidence-based studies, funded by the National Institute of Justice (2023), show that trauma-informed cognitive-behavioral therapy and programs offering substance-use treatment can greatly reduce drug dependency and enhance the post-release outcomes. Those who take part in structured treatment

programs are at a lower risk of reoffending and are more likely to successfully reenter society (Pearce, 2025). There is evidence at the state level that supports this conclusion. As an example, New York has dropped its prison population by more than 51 percent between 1999 and 2023 and experienced a reduction in its violent crimes, which was greater than the national rate of 34 percent (Pearce, 2025). These results show that the possibility of reducing the influence of incarceration does not negatively affect the public security level, but, on the contrary, may enhance the existing level.

Ultimately, reviving mandatory minimum and three-strikes laws would mean repeating a costly and ineffective policy experiment. The financial, social and<sup>5</sup> human costs of such actions, especially considering racial disparities, greatly outweigh any small advantages such measures may have. Evidence-based reform is a more valid way out<sup>6</sup> as the emphasis should not be on some symptoms of the crime abuser but rather the underlying causes. Justice, efficiency, and public safety are not exclusive to each other, and with the proper policies, it is possible to achieve them all at once.

1.	, and	Comma misuse within clauses	Correctness
2.	<del>the reduction</del> → a reduction	Determiner use (a/an/the/this, etc.)	Correctness
3.	, as	Incorrect punctuation	Correctness
4.	the Pew	Determiner use (a/an/the/this, etc.)	Correctness
5.	, and	Comma misuse within clauses	Correctness
6.	out,	Incorrect punctuation	Correctness