

Program facts



The program originated in Massachusetts in 1991. Now, it operates in 8 states and in the United Kingdom.

Over 3,500 offenders have gone through the program. The impact on these individuals and their families has been dramatic.

"Independent studies indicate a 50 percent reduction in recidivism rates and a near-end to violent behavior." Robert Waxler, Co-Founder

In 2003, CLTL received an Exemplary Education Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to create a new web site.

In 2004, the New England Board of Higher Education awarded CLTL with the Higher Education Excellence Award for Program Achievement.

<http://ctl.umassd.edu>



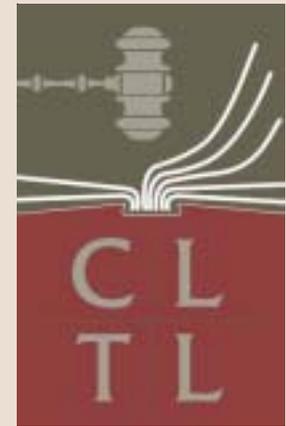
How to Start a Program

Starting a program requires dedication to the concept that literature can change people's lives.

For information on developing a new program, please visit our web site <http://ctl.umassd.edu>, contact us via email at ctl@umassd.edu or by phone at **508-999-8752**.

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An alternative sentencing program based on the power of literature to transform lives through reading and group discussion



Changing Lives Through Literature

<http://ctl.umassd.edu>



Literature has the power to transform.

Program's Key Points

CLTL participants, judges, probation officers, and instructors, believe that bringing carefully selected works of literature to criminal offenders may help these men and women gain insight into their lives and behavior, while learning that they are not alone with their problems.

Literature

- Helps us understand ourselves
- Relates to our lives
- Teaches and delights us
- Offers companionship
- Transforms us

CLTL

- Teaches life skills
- Builds self-esteem
- Encourages thinking
- Helps rehabilitate
- Changes lives

Offenders

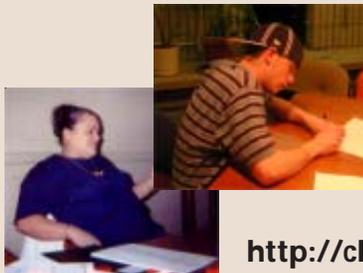
- Learn to be students
- Reflect upon their lives
- Learn to function in society
- Become better citizens



Dorchester District Court Team

Program Benefits

- The program is cost efficient. It costs less than \$500 per probationer in CLTL compared to \$21,600 per inmate annually (Bureau of Prisons, 2002).
- Jarjoura and Krumholz's statistical study indicates "a reconviction rate of 18.75% in [CLTL] study group, compared with 45% in [a student] comparison group." *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*
- The program gives the Criminal Justice System a sentencing alternative.



<http://cltl.umassd.edu>



Testimonials

- "Changing Lives Through Literature has made a difference to everyone who has had contact with it, the probationers, their family and the staff at the court as well as myself."
Judge Marie O. Jackson
Woburn District Court
- "Just being there made me feel important. My train of thought has changed. I'm planning for the future."
John Sylvia
Student
- "The ultimate prize upon completion of the program for me was expressing myself in class, through homework and in groups. I'll take experiences from the other guys, and feedback from the instructor, with me as I continue my journey in life."
Student
Dorchester Men's Program
- "[CLTL] is a great aid to judges as an intermediate sanction or alternative to a sentence...probationers see that there's a different means to deal with [their issues], different actions that may be able to be taken down the road."
Theresa Owens
Probation Officer
Taunton District Court
- "[The purpose of CLTL] is to inspire others to re-create themselves in a way that is contributory to the human experience and, in that way, to be an inspiration."
Cherie Muehlenberg
Kansas Program

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