

1.)

The prison to me can be defined as an often invisible place where those who are deemed unfit for society are removed and sent to. Davis brings up the idea that the belief that one could never be a prisoner themselves, the prison becomes “an abstract site into which undesirables are deposited”. Additionally Davis points out many people’s interactions with the prison are based on dramatic interpretations in media and not actual experience. Therefore I say the prison is often an *invisible place* as it lives in many people’s minds as a dramatized image meanwhile the physical prison and its internals go unseen. While the second part of my offered definition may align directly with the common sense idea that a prison is for wrongdoers, I believe that the key word is *deemed*. It is at the discretion of the governmental and capitalistic systems who is a wrongdoer and who is not, leading to a false sense of a concrete and just criteria. Davis’ definition of the prison is important for any proceeding discussions about prison reformation or abolition. If one came into the discussion with only the understanding of say the prison as a physical location, much of the pertinent discussion around the unjust systemic forces that manifest in the “evildoers” who are sent to prison would fall on deaf ears. Therefore having a mutual understanding between Davis and the reader is necessary for further discussion.

4.)

When first approaching this chapter, I knew about many of the inconsistencies between what prisons claim to do and what often they are. However as the chapter progressed, I began to become more aware of how little I knew about the unchallenged expansion of prisons and their believed necessity in society.