

## UNDERSTANDING MONTHLY POINTS

### MEASURING CONSISTENCY, EFFORT, AND MOMENTUM

The Profiles platform uses monthly points to measure how hard a person has worked during a specific month. Monthly points highlight recent effort, reward consistency, and create opportunities for participants to distinguish themselves through disciplined action.

Monthly points exist to answer a simple question:

- » Who is working hardest right now?

### WHY MONTHLY POINTS MATTER

Long-term effort matters, but consistent effort matters more. Monthly points are designed to:

- » Encourage people who are new to our platform to begin climbing our leaderboards and show sustained, ongoing work
- » Prevent complacency
- » Reward momentum and discipline
- » Highlight recent commitment to preparation

They ensure that preparation is not something someone did in the past, but something they are doing now.

### WHAT MONTHLY POINTS MEASURE

Monthly points measure documented effort within a defined time period. They reflect:

- » Writing frequency during the month
- » Consistency of engagement
- » Follow-through on preparation activities

### MONTHLY POINTS DO NOT MEASURE:

- » How long someone has been incarcerated
- » Seniority or tenure
- » Reputation or influence

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They measure current work.

### **HOW MONTHLY POINTS ARE EARNED**

Monthly points are earned the same way individual points are earned—through written contributions added to a participant’s profile during that month. Eligible entries include:

- » Journal entries
- » Book reports
- » Biography updates
- » Release plan drafts or revisions

### **POINTS ARE AWARDED PER ENTRY BASED ON WORD COUNT:**

- » 1 point for entries of 300 words or fewer
- » 2 points for entries of more than 300 words

Only entries published during the given month count toward that month’s total.

### **MONTHLY POINTS CREATE OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE**

Monthly points level the playing field. A person who is just beginning their preparation journey can outperform someone who has been incarcerated for years if they work harder during a given month. This matters because:

- » It rewards initiative
- » It values effort over time served
- » It motivates new participants

It reinforces the idea that it is never too early—or too late—to start preparing. Monthly points make preparation competitive in a healthy, merit-based way.

### **RECOGNITION AND MOTIVATION**

Monthly points allow participants to strive toward recognition for hard work. Seeing who is leading in a given month:

- » motivates others to increase effort,
- » encourages consistency,
- » and reinforces a culture of preparation and excellence.

Recognition is not about ego. It is about reinforcing behaviors that lead to better outcomes.

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## **BUILDING A STORY OF HARD WORK**

Monthly points are most powerful when paired with content. A strong monthly record includes:

- » multiple journal entries documenting effort and adjustment,
- » book reports showing intentional learning,
- » updates to biographies or release plans,
- » and evidence of consistent execution.

Together, these entries tell a story of disciplined work during that month.

## **MONTHLY POINTS AND SELF-ADVOCACY**

When advocating with stakeholders, monthly points help demonstrate:

- » recent engagement,
- » sustained effort,
- » and momentum toward preparation.

They answer questions like:

- » “What has this person been doing lately?”
- » “Is this effort ongoing or occasional?”

Recent effort often carries significant weight in evaluations.

## **FINAL PERSPECTIVE**

- » Preparation should be visible.
- » Effort should be measurable.
- » Consistency should be rewarded.

Monthly points exist to highlight who is showing up and doing the work right now. They encourage discipline, motivate excellence, and reinforce the principle that progress is earned through action—month by month.

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