

## **GETTING STARTED GUIDE: BUILDING YOUR PRISON PROFESSORS PROFILE**

The Profiles platform is designed to be accessible to people in different circumstances. Whether you are in the community, in custody, or without access to technology or support, there is a way to begin building a profile.

A profile allows you to document your preparation for success through writing, reflection, learning, and planning. There is no cost to participate.

Below are the different ways to get started, depending on your situation and available resources.

### **OPTION 1: YOU ARE IN THE COMMUNITY AND HAVE INTERNET ACCESS**

If you have access to the internet, you can build your profile directly. How to get started:

1. Visit [PrisonProfessors.org](https://PrisonProfessors.org)
2. Follow the prompts to create a profile
3. Begin writing responses to questions and lessons
4. Update your profile as you continue learning and preparing

This option allows you to manage your profile independently and update it at your own pace.

### **OPTION 2: YOU ARE IN CUSTODY AND HAVE SUPPORT FROM FAMILY OR FRIENDS**

If you are incarcerated and have a family member or trusted friend willing to help, they can serve as your Profile Partner. How this works:

1. Ask a family member or friend to visit [PrisonProfessors.org](https://PrisonProfessors.org)
2. They sign up on your behalf as a Profile Partner (free)
3. They receive a User ID and Password
4. You write responses to prompts, lessons, journals, or plans
5. You send your writing home by mail or approved communication
6. Your Profile Partner publishes your writing to your profile

This option allows you to participate fully even without internet access.

### **OPTION 3: YOU ARE IN CUSTODY AND DO NOT HAVE SUPPORT, BUT HAVE EMAIL ACCESS**

If you do not have family or friends who can help, but you can send email, our team can assist. How to get started:

1. Send an email to [Interns@PrisonProfessors.org](mailto:Interns@PrisonProfessors.org)
2. Include your name, location, and request to build a profile
3. Our team will create the profile and guide you on how to submit writing

This option is available at no cost.

### **OPTION 4: YOU ARE IN CUSTODY AND DO NOT HAVE EMAIL OR SUPPORT**

If you do not have internet access, email access, or outside support, you can still participate. How to get started by mail:

Write a letter requesting to build a profile and send it to:

Prison Professors  
Profiles  
P.O. Box 50996  
Irvine, CA 92619

Include your name, location, and a brief introduction. Our team will respond and assist you in getting started.

### **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU GET STARTED**

Once you sign up or request assistance:

- » We help set up your profile
- » We begin sending books to keep you engaged in learning
- » You receive prompts, guidance, and structure to continue writing
- » There is no charge for the work we do

Our goal is to support a self-directed path toward preparation and success.



## **WRITING, SKILL DEVELOPMENT, AND POINTS**

Writing is at the center of the Profiles platform. The more you write, the more you develop:

- » Communication skills
- » Critical thinking
- » Self-awareness
- » Planning ability

To encourage consistent writing, we assign participation points:

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

Points are cumulative and appear on your profile. They also contribute to optional leaderboards that reflect consistency and engagement. We want you to compete with others, to show who is working hardest to get the highest level of liberty, at the soonest possible time. The points are a way to:

- » Encourage regular writing
- » Measure effort over time
- » Build accountability
- » Show an intentional path of preparation

## **WHY THIS MATTERS**

A completed profile becomes a living record of your effort to prepare for success upon release. It can help:

- » Build stronger relationships with family and mentors
- » Support self-advocacy with stakeholders
- » Demonstrate learning, discipline, and follow-through
- » Show that you are taking responsibility for your future

Preparation does not require perfect conditions. It requires commitment and consistency. Profiles exists to support those willing to do that work.

