

**What's Worth Fighting For?  
Performance Script**

Opening –

*Darrel, Unit H*

Back in the day, block parties were about grooving to hip hop music and people playing live instruments. They also had food stands for which people made their own food and sold it on the sidewalk. But now block parties have changes. Block parties now-a-days aren't really block parties. You got homeboys chilling. Listening to music that's bumping and thumping from the homeboy's care stereo.

But in here, it's gone be a little something different. We gone do this the JDC way. So tonight, we gone give y'all a taste of how we party on the block. Well, we can't really give you a taste of that but we can show you we [would] party in a [in here].

*Dance I - 5 min.*

Theme 1- Block Life

*Josh, Demarco, and Rodrick, Unit I, Rap*

**For My People**

Chorus

This is for my people who fell from the block  
Who fell from the cops  
Who fell from the rocks  
My people even tho you aint a kin of me  
RIP, you forever be a friend to me  
My sister, my brother, my gone ride with each other  
My sister, my brother, my gone ride with each other

Verse 1

I miss my home girl Peaches she died in 07  
The tenth of July and she rised up to heaven  
I thank God that he blessed her  
Cause if God didn't bless her  
I'd be ridin around bopped so high with a Mac 11  
Now it's time for a lesson  
I miss my auntie Peggy  
I wasn't ready but now she with her daddy  
I miss my friend Patrese  
Knew her since I was three  
Got ran over by a truck when she was crossing the street  
My granddaddy died  
That's on my father side

I'm still learning a lesson so I don't bother rides  
The latest loss in 08 was lil Rishaad died  
And it got everybody sad it was homicide.

Chorus

RIP to my G-Pa  
My fans out there I see ya'll  
This verse is for my brothers who I lost in the streets  
DOGS to DECO to HOT-ROD to spunky to V-DOG  
so when judgment day come I swear to GO  
D I'm gone meet ya'll and to my homie spanky  
I'm gone take care of yo daughter and  
when she get out of line I'm gone get her back in order  
and I got one up on the way so I gotta get smarter  
and when it come to rapping you know that I'm the hardest.

*Jeremiah ., Unit H, Rap*

Living in the projects  
Ain't no other subject  
Steady making money checks  
You ain't know about that  
Everybody sadly didn't have a Family  
So I lived with my homey  
Sleeping on the cold streets  
Watching out for that heat  
That was life for me  
The hand God dealt me  
Trying to be somebody  
Instead of a limp body  
Never had mommy to comfort me  
Tell me goodnight stories  
That's the life God dealt me  
Trying to get a second look at life  
So I moved from the heated fight  
The fight of life  
So decided to fly right  
Get money and live the high life  
That's how I've lived  
My second chance in life

*Terrel, Unit I, Rap*

Man I'm running gang street boys  
Bustin shots at my brain  
Never knowing when I'm going

to get hit by one of them bullets man  
See I got to change  
I can't be sitting here waiting on my momma's face to rain.  
That's just pain  
Got my momma going insane  
So many things going through my brain  
Make everybody turn enemy  
So commit crime and get to taking people's cars  
And get locked up behind bars  
For driving them stolen cars  
Now I'm sweatin and pressure's coming hard  
Now I'm praying Lord  
Please get me out these bars. I'm so sorry Lord.

*Javon, Unit G, Rap*

**No Lights On**

I was living with my momma, broke with no lights on.  
One day I went to get some money and something to eat.  
Some boys started shooting at me, so I went home.  
The police started messing with me  
I went to jail, then my momma started crying  
I got out after a month and I was happy  
I was living with my momma, broke with no lights on.

*Darrel T., Unit H*

I remember hustlin.  
Never thought about going to jail.  
Comped some money from my g-pops  
And paid my bail

Hustlin everyday,  
From about eight to twelve  
One time pulled up  
Had to shake and bail.

Gangsta's fell  
Cause everybody's got their hustle on.  
Soon as I hopped on the block  
I had to get some muscle on.

Now my muscle's strong, mother gone,  
And I'm in another zone.  
So, everything that I got  
Was on my Freak'n own.

I hustled long.  
Told my mama we were gonna be rich.  
Plus, my homies told my sisters  
They were gonna be thick.  
It's crazy, never thought I'd be hearin' this  
Couple months later, my people died in an accident.

So people call me cold hearted,  
But I don't even care.  
These people weren't around  
When this stuff started.  
I got the weight of the world  
And it keeps getting harder.  
Got to get in and get out  
After I get smarter.

*Breon J, Unit H, Poem*

**Life is Beautiful**  
Life is beautiful,  
But really it's not.  
I realized that  
The day my brother got shot.

I was standing right there,  
I was looking in his eyes,  
Then the next thing you know,  
Boom, my brother dies.

I turned into a menace.  
I had to get his revenge.  
But now I pray to forgive  
The thought of that sin.

I look at these dudes  
All grown up and dumb,  
Then I look at these dudes  
All fake and just bombs.

I don't think none of ya'll hard  
Unless ya'll prove me wrong.  
This is a menace-to-menace life,  
Everybody looking at the throne.

*Sheila H., Unit C, Poem*

Started with some fun, losing my self-control. Here comes the law, now I'm on parole.  
Mom and dad either work, gone or busy. No one to listen, felt like no one could hear me.

Moma say, “girl, you better take your butt to school.” But I skipped, being a fool, chasing behind some dude.

No one was there, so my soul felt burned. Streets sound good, so there is where I turned.

Now I’m in a 12x12 foot cell. Though I was grown, ain’t grown enough to make bail.

So, now I’m in jail, doing my time. So much to think about, so much on my mind.

But they think this is where we belong. You know our kind.

Instead of being a statistic, I went with it.

I wasn’t thinking, wasn’t using my head. Now I sleep on a thin mattress and a metal spring bed.

What was I thinking leading my youngins the wrong way.

But look at me now, all I can do is pray.

All the things I put them through and the times we cried.

It amazes me to see my parents still standing by my side.

## Theme 2 – Money

### *Malcolm B., Unit I, Vignette*

When I think about money, I think about all the possible ways to get it legally and illegally. Personally, I feel that going to school and staying in for the long run is best way to get money. Education can lead to *better* money than *quick* money. Money always has problems involved, but making the right choices with it leads to maintaining little problems, instead of big ones.

### *Josh E., Unit I, Poem*

You see money turned me out  
Once upon a time  
Yeah I was going crazy over dollars  
And a bunch of dimes  
See I was smoking blacks  
Wasn’t worried about my health  
I had everybody back  
But they was worried ‘bout they self  
I done a lot of things  
That I know I regret  
But I hold a bunch of anger  
And steam up on my chest

### *William C., Unit I, Monologue*

Money makes the world go any way that it can. If you do not have money you will get mad and go out and do something to get money. You will not care about how you get money. You can set your self up for problems. Money can make other people get mad if they do not have it. They will try hard to get the same thing that you have by doing the wrong thing.

If you go out and get a job, you will see where hard earned money gets you in life. And no one can take it from you because you worked hard for it. You didn't go out and take it from anyone. So do good things, and you will get good things back.

Theme 3 – Emotions and Love

*Ashley G., Unit C, Life - a dedication*

Life  
A rising sun  
A shining moon  
Thank God I've been blessed with you  
Say what you want  
Feel how you like  
I'm going to give birth to life  
I'm scared but safe  
And ready for this responsibility coming my way  
I love too much to hate  
But I do want it this way  
To give life  
Is like hitting the lotto  
Expect I have you  
Which is so much more  
Cause God has blessed with this beautiful star  
Cause I get to make a difference today

*Angela V., Unit C, Poem*

Love is like a roller coaster  
You're up  
You're down  
Different emotions all in one  
You're up  
You laugh  
You're down  
You cry  
Emotions  
Emotions all in one  
You feel a tone  
A tone of emotions  
You laugh  
You cry  
You're upset  
You're happy  
Emotions

*Ashley B., Unit C, Poem*

What is love?  
Love is not a game  
What is love?  
Love is something you care about.  
Something very special to you.  
Not something you take as a game.  
Something you enjoy.  
What is love?  
Do you really know what's love?

***Arniesha R., Unit C, Vignette***

Love can come from so many directions. Sometimes you have to make sure that you aren't falling to a trap. Most people do a lot of stuff for love, but you shouldn't have to do anything. For love, you don't have to buy jewels, cars, clothes, etc. If you do, then you will be getting your love bought, instead of receiving true love.

***Demarco H., Unit H, Poem***

See man I'm going though [some nonsense]  
My grandpa died when I was locked up and my momma sick  
I don't want know what to do but pray to God  
But it seems like when I pray somebody die

So I look up to the sky  
And ask him why  
Er time that I pray I gotta cry  
So I keep (my eyes to the sky)  
And look my enemies right in they eyes  
See I'm going through some thangs man  
I'm about to lose it  
They finna make me set it off  
Like I'm in that movie  
And people say that my grandma is going crazy  
But I don't believe that [nonsense] cuzz I love that lady  
And she always keep it real man she never lie  
And even when I'm in the wrong she by my side  
An I love her and the only way to pay her back

Theme 3 – Education

***Breon J., Unit H, Poem***

My life is on the line  
I gotta get some money  
But I'm a do it legal  
I'm not gon do it phoney.

See, I'm gon go to school

finish it and then succeed  
And show the whole world  
By the law I can achieve.

If I don't got to school  
wit a son on the way  
I might as well say goodbye  
to all those peaceful day.

They trying to push me down  
but I ain't gon budge  
you banging wit a beast.  
You ain't banging wit a scrub.

Homie this my life  
I ain't gone give up so easy  
I'm gone reach the top homeboy believe

***Arniesha R., Unit C., Vignette***

I am going to stand high to the sky for my education. My education is endless. I deserve more and I'm going to make my great, great, great, ancestors proud of me because I will be walking across the stage when it's time for me to graduate.

***Jasmine H., Unit C., Vignette***

I can keep my freedom by doing everything that my mother has planned for me like go and finish school and graduate and go to Washington University and get my degrees and get a job at a law firm and become something one day and accomplish for myself.

***Sheila H., Unit C., Vignette***

I will fight the education problem to help me get a job by getting on the superintendent by increasing better school programs, after school programs, and new teachers with more experience. Having my parents go to PTO meetings, getting more parents involved. Plus, get them to start programs where they offer job opportunities to black youths and teens.

**Theme 4 – Worth Fighting For**

***Darius M., Unit H, Vignette***

I fight for freedom (getting out of Juvenile Detention Center) I do that by staying on target and keeping my head up. I fight for education so I can be somebody, instead of nothing, instead of being a criminal all my life. People think I don't mean it, but I DO!! You don't have to believe me, that's on you, but I fight for things that are right.

***Steven F., Unit H, Vignette***

I think respect is worth fighting for. If you don't fight for your respect, people will just treat you any kind-of-way. Then you start to lose respect for yourself. You start to lose

confidence in yourself and you will probably lose everything you ever had. Losing your respect is the worse thing that can happen.

***Lamarcus M., Unit H, Vignette***

One thing that I fight for is myself because everyday I am faced with fear. I will never know what's going to happen to me or what is going to happen because I am fighting for my life. I live everyday not knowing if I'm going to get locked up, but I am just (?) my mother each and everyday. So if you ask, I'm fighting for myself.

***Javon W., Unit G, Vignette***

What's worth fighting for is my momma. Because if someone touches my momma, I will fight because I love my momma and I have to protect my momma because she is all I've got besides my brother and sisters.

***Money G., Unit G, Vignette***

I will fight for my family because if it wasn't for them I wouldn't be here probably. I wouldn't want anything to go wrong cause I don't want to see anyone in my family cry. For me to see them cry would make me want to fight somebody.

***Avion A., Unit H***

I am fighting for my life and school. I can learn about this earth. This earth is a death trap for us little kids. So I am fighting for my life and school.

***Malcolm B., Unit I, Monologue***

There are many things in life that are worth fighting for. One of them is education. Education is worth fighting for because education is the key to success. Meaning education brings options and the more options you have, the more opportunities you have to make it in life. I'm not saying the type of fighting that could keep you from your education. The fight I'm talking about is mostly mental. You have to fight to work hard and when you decide it's time to work hard, you'll learn the importance of working hard to work smart. Working hard to work smart includes doing anything that it takes to be reasonably happy. By doing the things you always wanted to do. The things you dream about will begin to evolve in your life when you begin to fight for the right to become anything you want. Which comes from the ability to maintain education rights.

**Theme 5 – On Freedom**

***Dontez W., Unit H, Rap***

Fighting for your freedom is hard to do when you're held back,  
Falling off track  
Like free throws from Shaq  
Wondering should I get a job  
Or hit the block and make stacks  
Or listen to the same people that stab you in your back  
My intentions are good,  
My head is up, my feet is on the ground

But the wrong crowd will have you in cuffs  
In the cell, walking around

So I ask myself,  
“What should I do?”  
Then it hit me,  
Nobody can make changes in your life but you  
I laid down, paced the floor  
Wondering what’s best for me?  
My sight is clear, but my life is blurry  
And I barely see,

But three letters came to mind,  
I tried to change  
couldn’t do it so I’m a do me

I’m a stop facing my hard aches and pain  
Turn them over to Jesus

I prayed to Him  
I said, Who Am I?  
A man about to ruin his dreams  
With no runway to fly

I said, Lord  
Oh Lord God,  
What should I do?

He said the crucifixion wasn’t for me, son  
It was for you

*Ashley G, Unit C, Screamin’ Out – A Poem*

Screaming out in to the dark  
Screaming out  
Trying to shout  
Looking for another way out  
Dead end go the other way  
I turn around there’s no other way  
Screaming out  
Trying to shout  
Give me light  
Help me go right  
Praying to God  
Saying help stop

Stop what?  
Who said that?  
Me! Me who?  
I turn around  
And see it's you  
You as in me  
It's just a mirror  
Telling me what I see  
Screaming out  
Trying to shout  
Screaming why!  
I say, but I'm just screaming into another day  
But in the same way.  
Screaming out  
Trying to shout

***Arniesha R., Unit C, Vignette***

I will keep my freedom by standing strong and long. I will keep my freedom by keeping my head up high without a sight of being shy. But I know I will keep my freedom, because my freedom is all I've got with the color that I have. I can change the way I stand by accomplishing my goals and dreams. I can help the way I see by bringing insight to my seeing.

***Sheila H., Unit C, Vignette***

I plan to keep my freedom by going to school and getting off these streets, because there's no life out there for a girl who has dreams and expectations of her self. Plus, I'm trying to keep my composure when it comes to law enforcement.

***Ashley B., Unit C, Vignette***

Well, when I get out, I am not coming back. I am going to finish school, obtain a job, and keep a positive mind. My plan is to go to job corps and get my high school diploma and then to college. And keep going from there.

***Ashley G., Unit C, Poem***

To judge or be a judge  
Well the judge I know  
Judge Edwards, who has a big heart that just grows and grows  
He's tuff, but fair  
And will always be around to help out in despair  
Which is great because half this stuff isn't fair  
What is fair?  
And what is right?  
Ask Judge Edwards so he can shed some light.  
Everyone I know says they love him so.  
He's the greatest Judge I ever met

Cause he doesn't doubt me  
About who I am or what I do  
All he says is "I believe in you"  
So I hold my head up high  
So I can fly  
So I thank you Judge Edwards  
For every thing you've done  
You truly are the best Judge I ever knew.  
Which is why I always choose to be truthful to you.

Theme 6 – On a Second Chance

*Josh E, Unit I, Poem*

Untitled

It went from George Washington Carver  
to Jackie Robinson, Sojourner Truth  
Jessie Owens, Booker T. Washington  
Fredrick Douglass and Martin Luther King  
Malcolm X and Rosa Parks had let the freedom ring

It went from Tuskegee air, man  
Yeah, they flew all the airplanes  
Madam CJ Walker made inventions  
that'll make yo hair change  
I ain't forgot about Armstrong  
Angelou or Jesse Jackson.

They are my role models  
They created all the fashion.  
I drink a whole bottle  
I'm go swallow my passion  
In my eyes, I'm steal saggin'  
but my pride, I'm still grabbing.  
My destiny is really just to go and reach my goal.  
My biggest goal I ever had  
is to reach the Super Bowl.

You see the thing that really  
got me was my homeboy died.  
He ain't think nobody would pop him  
cause he thought he was wise.

So, that's really why I had kept  
the nine.  
But I wasn't gon harm nobody, man.  
I swear to God, that's on Rishaad.

It ain't my time to rise to God.  
Yeah, that cross my mind.  
Man, I really wanna stay alive.

But not I'm blind cause I can't  
even see my situation.  
And I been in my own dimension.  
Yeah, that's what I'm facing.  
I'm misbehaving, ain't nobody on  
my side no mo.  
No matter what I say because  
think I drive stolos.  
I told 'em that I'm done  
I'm really tryin'  
to change my life, but first I gotta start  
by tryin' to rearrange the night.

***Money G., Unit G, Vignette***

If I had another chance I would go back to school and get my self to college and try to  
stay out of trouble. Then when I'm done with college, I would try to get a career.

***Javon W., Unit G, Vignette***

I will fight for a second chance because I can change. Just give me another chance. I  
don't want to be in a bad situation like the people in the big house.

***Breon J, Unit H, Poem***

Soul to Soul

I use to claim a thug.  
I use to live like a beast  
but then I realized all that  
wasn't me.

I'm about love, happiness  
And all above. And trying to  
Be a beast was leading me  
straight to be a bomb.

It didn't take jail for  
Me to realized this. It took  
my brother and that gun  
that hit him in the spine,  
paralyzing him from waist down.

We could have avoided that  
if we would of thought smart  
But me and my girl was

just showing some heart-to-heart.

I do not regret having a son on the way. The thought  
of that is just keeping me off  
the streets.

But I made a mistake  
that every man makes  
I dwelled with the devil  
the time when it was  
late. I tried to show  
him love, tried to give  
him a peace of mine.

But then he showed  
me all the hate up in  
his eyes. So, then I grabbed  
him and said, *No, not again.*

*Why can't we, cousin?  
Why can't we just make  
friends. Why won't you  
listen to me. Why do you have to sin?*

He didn't want to listen  
so then I let him go.  
Then a light flashed and  
There were the popo.

And now I'm in jail  
writing this soul-to-soul.  
Praying to the Lord—He  
forgive me for this song.

*Josh E., Unit I, Rap*

### **My Apology**

Verse 1:

When I was growing up I use to be bad.  
I went from hanging with older dudes  
when they was losing the Task.  
They use to bruise'm up bad .  
Talkin' bout shootin' they dad  
but I wasn't with none of that stuff  
cuz I was koola than that.

Chorus:

See, as the bigga man I know I was  
the one that was wrong.  
Yeah, I don't understand why I make  
my decisions known.  
Man, I apologize for comin' to you place  
with the chrome.  
I hope you accept my apology for writing  
this song.

Verse 2:

When I was nice, we use to break up in them vacos  
I wasn't in my right mind.  
We broke them windows wit them legos.  
My mama whoop my behind.  
When she found out that I had K.O.  
I lil' dude that was blind.  
It was like riding on a cradle  
See, I don't do that stuff no more  
I learned the right from the wrong  
because I'm up in Juvenile wishin' that I was home.  
I know I should've left the hood alone.  
See, when it got me.  
That's because I thought I was grown.

*Glen R., Unit I, Poem*

The life I live:  
People telling me I need to chill.  
Slanging the drugs sooner or later,  
you gon get killed.  
So, I don't won't  
live that life.  
Before I do the crime, I'm going to think twice.

*Ashley G., Unit C, Poem*

**I feel like me**  
I feel like screaming  
I feel like shouting  
I feel like wil'in out, with no doubt  
I feel like singing  
I feel like running  
I feel like skipping  
I feel like jumping  
I feel like laughing  
I feel like crying  
I feel like smiling  
I feel like pouting

I feel like me  
Just me no doubt  
I feel like being human, so I'm a work it out.

*Dance II – 5 min.*

*Darius M., Unit H, Poem*

**What's worth fighting for?**

If you want to achieve, you gotta rep when you standing for.  
Education is the key.  
That's the thing I'm fighting for.  
Momma always told me I can be what I want to be.  
Ten, you the truth, for real.  
I just want to be free everyday.  
Bro, I gotta see the same thing:  
Nine guys on the unit wearing green.  
Black and white shows.  
I even got them in size ten then in a size eight.  
Sick of being hungry.  
Only eat three times a day.  
Also fighting for life  
cuz that's the most important thing.  
Can't wait to see the day I turn fifteen.  
Live my life.  
Then I can start living my dream  
cuz home is the best place to be.  
I'm sick and tired of laying up in the room.  
Gotta ask can I get some water or go to the bathroom.  
Gotta do what the staff ask me to do.  
Nas said when day come, and then night falls.  
I'm sick of wearing other people's stinky draws.  
When I go home I always got to think of something.  
I protect myself like a man protecting his woman.  
So, In other words I got to achieve  
cuz I don't want to die out in these streets.

Chorus:

D-Ro what you fighting for.  
I'm fighting for freedom.  
I'm fighting for peace.  
I'm fighting to get out the hood life and just be me.  
I'm fighting for my sister.  
I'm fighting for my mother.  
I'm fighting for my dream.

I'm fighting for expectations.  
I'm fighting for life.  
I'm fighting for education.  
Now you know me, I've been fighting for a while.  
I'm also fighting for my grace and my whole style.

Verse 2:

Now I know what you're thinking but this ain't me.  
Being in Juvenile wearing all green.  
Neva follow, bro, I'd rather lead.  
Llike I said I can be what I want to be.  
I'm fighting for protection and I'm fighting for success.  
I'm fighting to try hard and to try my best.  
I'm fighting to see my baby sister's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
I'm fighting so that I don't miss another holiday.  
If a genie came now and gave me three wishes.  
I wish that I could leave this whole division.  
Get off probation, go back to education.  
Go back to the hobbies I've been participating.  
Praying to God that he be in my soul.  
I think it's time for me to let the demon go.  
Friends set me up, now that's what I felt.  
Only friends I've got is my family. Nobody else.  
Lifetime change, now it's up to me to change it back.  
Plus I've got to get old me back on track.  
They say hell is real but I don't believe it.  
In order to believe homeboy, I've got to see it.

Chorus:

Verse 3:

Now if you're fighting for something clap your hands.  
If you're fighting for something, clap your hands.  
Now if you're fighting for something clap your hands.  
If you're fighting for something, clap your hands.  
I fight for my baby sister 'cause she's the best thing to me.  
I'd hate to see her big brother in the penitentiary.  
But best believe her brother ain't got to be like that.  
Because her big brother is going to stay on track.  
She ain't going to see her big brother laying in a hard bed.  
She ain't going to see her big brother get cuffed by a  
She's going to see her big brother doing something positive.  
She's going to see her big brother getting how he lives.  
That's my mama's dream she wants me to be satisfied.  
She doesn't want me in jail if I get certified.

## Word Symphony

### ***Tevin L., Unit H***

I'm fighting for my life.  
I'm fighting to be somebody in life.  
I'm fighting to get out the hood.  
I'm fighting to do me.  
I'm fighting to show my mom I can make it in life.  
I'm fighting to go to college.

### ***Javon W., Unit G***

I'm fighting to eat some real food  
I'm fighting to see my sister and brother  
I'm fighting to go to college  
I'm fighting to love my dad  
I'm fighting to go home  
I'm fighting to protect my family

### ***Money G., Unit G***

I'm fighting to get out of here.  
I'm fighting to make a living.  
I'm fighting to protect myself.  
I'm fighting to protect my family.  
I'm fighting to stay in school till I graduate high school.  
I'm fighting to make it through court.  
I'm fighting to keep a smile on my momma's face.  
I'm fighting to get a scholarship for Mizzou.  
I'm fighting to do my best this Saturday if I'm here.  
I'm fighting to live up to my name.

### ***Mike S., Unit H***

I'm fighting to have a better future.  
I'm fighting to better myself.  
I'm fighting to give help to those who need help more than I do.  
I'm fighting to stop my siblings from having a chaotic life like mine.  
I'm fighting to get an education so I can be the next best thing.  
I'm fighting for my family at all times.  
I'm fighting for a better life.  
I'm fighting not to be discriminated by my color.

### ***Demarco H., Unit H***

I'm fighting for my baby  
Fighting for my family.

I'm fighting for myself.  
I'm fight for my money.  
I'm fighting for my education.

***Josh E., Unit I***

I'm fighting to get an education.  
I'm fighting to get rich.  
I'm fighting to get known.  
I'm fighting to get strong.  
I'm fighting to stay out of trouble.

***Malcolm B., Unit I***

I'm fighting to make my mother proud of me.  
I'm fighting to be the only boy in my family to go to college.  
I'm fighting to the best athlete in St. Louis Public Schools  
I'm fighting to graduate from high school with honors  
I'm fighting to make it in life (survive).  
I'm fighting to change from a boy to a man.  
I'm fighting to be unreasonably happy.  
I'm fighting to learn the importance of everyday life.  
I'm fighting to get the best education.  
I'm fighting to get my mother that dream house.  
I'm fighting for opportunities  
I'm fighting to work hard to work smart.  
I'm fighting to make better decisions.  
I'm fighting for benefits.  
I'm fighting for options.  
I'm fighting to be important. I'm fighting to be wise.

***Glen R., Unit I***

I'm fighting to go home so I can live straight and do nothing wrong.  
I'm fighting to be cool stop smoking and to follow the rules  
I'm fighting to do right and stay out of JDC and live my life  
I'm fighting to stay out my hood and go to school and do good  
I'm fighting to stop skipping class cause I do it a lot and it makes my people sad.  
I'm fighting.

***William C, Unit I***

I'm fighting to stay out of jail.  
I'm fighting for getting out of the hood life.  
I'm fighting to stay in school.  
I'm fighting to get a job.  
I'm fighting to show my family that I can do good.  
I'm fighting to stop doing the things that I was doing outside in the world.

I'm fighting to be supportive.  
I'm fighting to show my younger family the good things to do.  
I'm fighting to show people that I can stay out of trouble.  
I'm fighting to be helpful to others.  
I'm fighting to be respectful to all those around me.  
I'm fighting to grow from a boy to a man.

*Arniesha R., Unit C*

I'm fighting for my life.  
I'm fighting for the things that are right.  
I'm fighting for my dream.  
I'm fighting for success.  
I'm fighting to be the best...

*Jasmine H., Unit C*

I'm fighting for my freedom  
I'm fighting for my grace and my style.  
I'm fighting for my generation.  
I'm fighting for myself and territory.  
I'm fighting for my parents.

*Sheila H., Unit C*

I'm fighting for...  
I'm fighting for my life.  
I'm fighting for my dreams, goals, and expectations.  
I'm fighting for my culture.  
I'm fighting for my family.  
I'm fighting for my respect.  
This is the way I'm fighting.

*Angela V., Unit C*

I'm fighting for my education.  
I'm fighting for my life.  
I'm fighting for my protection.  
I'm fighting for my freedom.  
I'm fighting for my family.

**Rodrick, Unit I**

I'm fighting for a successful life  
I'm fighting for a kind and sweet hearted woman that will better my life  
I'm fighting to get out of JDC  
I'm fighting to leave my old friends alone do me  
I'm fighting to better my education  
I'm fighting to live for graduation  
I'm fighting to live, live, live

I'm fighting to not be on the street and be killed