

AN ABOLITIONIST
GROUP READING OF
"ARE PRISONS OBSOLETE"
BY ANGELA DAVIS

chapter 1



1. why do prisons exist?

2. what, if anything, is the problem with prisons?



3. what is the prison population in your state/city?

**4. what % are Black?
Latinx? Trans?**



5. what is the prison budget in your state? in your city?

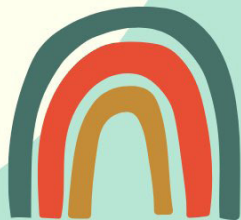
6. how many prisons are in your state? in your city?



**7. how has capitalism
accelerated the
expansion of the prison
industrial complex?**



8. recall a depiction of prisons in media in your recent memory. what did it look like? what was your reaction?



temp check!

*answer the following questions *honestly* based on how you feel right now. we'll check back in on how/if your feelings evolve over the next few weeks*

1. who do you believe "deserves" to be in prison? why?
2. how, if at all, do prisons keep you safe from these people?
3. in your wildest dreams, what would happen when someone causes harm?



vocab builders

always read with a dictionary close by! the goal is to absorb context & build a mental glossary

detritus: waste or debris of any kind

zenith: the time at which something is most powerful or successful

stultify: cause to lose enthusiasm and initiative, especially as a result of a tedious or restrictive routine

