

# Probation and parole essay samples

[Law](#), [Criminal Justice](#)



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## **Differences between probation and parole**

While much has been hypothesized regarding the similarities between probation and parole, it is crucial to note that they exhibit a number of differences. Above all probation differs from parole based on the fact that probation is a sentence that allows a criminal offender to remain in the community. However, in cases of probation, there are certain terms that should be met by the offender. Example of such terms includes the need to report to the assigned probation officer on an agreed schedule. In addition, these terms may require an offender sentenced on probation to avoid certain behavioral practices such as smoking and alcohol drinking. On the other hand, parole is different because it is not a sentence. Instead it is the release of a prisoner from his/her jail term, but under supervision. Overall, parole entails the release of someone from prison prior the expiry of his/her prison term (Samaha 416).

## **Shock probation/parole vs. traditional parole/probation**

Based on a personal thought traditional probation or parole is a better option when compared to shock parole or probation. Speaking of shock probation or parole, this connotes to case where first time criminal offenders incarcerated

can appeal for parole or probation. If such appeals are accepted these offenders are required to serve close to thirty or ninety days in prison before they are granted parole or probation. There are various reasons that justify the fact that traditional parole or probation is better than shock probation. Above all, shock probation forces first time offenders to spend significant amount of time, not less than thirty days before they are granted parole or probation. This is unacceptable because it can inflict trauma on first time offenders who have not had any experience regarding incarceration (Samaha 20). In addition, shock parole is not suitable than traditional parole because it results in overcrowding of prisons during the first thirty to ninety days when offenders who have appealed for parole are required to remain in prison. Certainly, these reasons justify the notions that traditional parole or probation is better than shock parole or probation.

## **Work Cited**

Samaha, Joel. Criminal Justice. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2006.  
Print.