The Other Wes Moore

One Name, Two Fates
Meet Wes Moore

- Born in 1979
- Graduated from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore
- Named Rhodes Scholar in 2000
- U.S. Army veteran (Afghanistan)
- Speaker at 2008 Democratic National Convention
Meet Wes Moore

➢ Born in 1976
➢ High School drop-out (later received his GED)
➢ Participated in deadly armed robbery in Baltimore, 2000
➢ Serving life sentence in Jessup Correctional Institution, Maryland
Baltimore of “The Wire”

Which Wes Moore?

At age of 7, moved to a neighborhood of black professionals, “...a paradise of neat

At age of 5, moved to a “deteriorating ghetto...”

http://www.flickr.com/photos/celebdu/106051029/
“Leaning Cover” by Mike Goren

http://farm5.staticflickr.com/4095/4849756067_78891eb00d.jpg
“Bronx Fire Escapes” by Paul Lowry
At age 8, he got suspended from school for fighting on the playground and giving another student a bloody forehead.

At age 8, he got arrested when he went to get a knife after being punched during a pick-up football game.

http://www.flickr.com/photos/balazsgardi/6091985589/ by Balasz Gardi
Second chances...

He tagged a billiards club with graffiti and got thrown in the back of a police car.

Instead of getting arrested, the officer gave him a warning.

Next week, he tagged again...
Second chances...

His brother beat him up at 14 to send him a message about staying out of the drug game. His mom flushed his dealing stash down the toilet.

After getting angry, his first thought was how to get that money back...
Changing the situation...

His family sent him to private military school at age 12.

His squad leader gave him a map to escape.

He ran away...

http://www.flickr.com/photos/afagen/7492087938/ “There goes Fishburne,” by Adam Fagen
Changing the situation...

He signed up for Job Corps.

He got his GED a month later.

After seven months, he completed vocational carpentry training...

Why, Wes Moore?

“Easy” drug money and allure of the gangster life?

Lack of good paying work?

Poor choices - babies and families to support?

What about personal responsibility?

Wes said, “We will do what others expect of us…”

Who (or what) does Wes Moore blame? Do you agree or disagree?

http://www.flickr.com/photos/v1ctor/6711234961/  
*Handcuffs, by Victor Casale*
Why, Wes Moore?

Genetics?

Environment?

Luck?

What about personal responsibility?

Being surrounded by people “...who kept pushing me to see more than what was directly in front of me…”?

Who or what does Wes Moore credit? Do you agree or disagree?
Thank You!

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