

Stanford Prison Experiment Homework

1. Go to youtube.
2. In search engine, type "Stanford Prison Experiment."
3. Click on the video entitled "Feature Film – The Stanford Prison Experiment (documentary). It is the one that is 29 minutes.
4. Watch and take notes on the questions below.

What does Zimbardo say the point of his study is?

What was the jail like?

How were guards outfitted to really look like guards?

How much were they paid?

What role did the experimenter play in the experiment (besides running the experiment)?

How did they make sure that prisoners felt like prisoners, before they even entered their cells?

What does Zimbardo mean by a "degradation process." What's an example of this? And what's the point of this?

What did the prisoners do on day 2 to “stir things up?”

What were some of the mean things the guards did in response to the rebellion and to assert their power over the prisoners?

What happened with prisoner 8612?

How did the guards break the solidarity of the prisoners as a group after the disobedient behavior of prisoner 819?

How does the newcomer, prisoner 416, protest against the guards? How do the guards respond? How is he punished?

When and why does the experiment end?

What are the ethical problems with this experiment?

How do the results of this experiment relate to ideas we have been exploring recently? Diffusion of responsibility? Obedience to authority? The self-fulfilling prophecy?