

## Journal #5

Same parameters – 3 pages = an A; 2 ½ = A-, etc.

1. Reflect on moments in your own life where you have fallen victim to the **diffusion of responsibility**. Of course, these need not be huge dramatic moments, but can even be small examples where you or someone else has been in a group or around a lot of others and chosen not to help someone who could use it. We perhaps fall victim to this every day.
2. Identify more general examples of **diffusion of responsibility** that you see (whether or not they apply to your own behavior). Explore other examples of diffusion of responsibility out there in the world.
3. Reflect on times when you have fallen victim to **social imitation**, times when you have simply repeated what other people are doing around you, even though this response may be incorrect or not good for you and/or for others. Again, we fall victim to this every day!
4. Think of more general examples of **social imitation** which may or may not apply to you – for example, bartenders salting the tip jar with \$1's, or the Werther effect. Explore examples of social imitation out there in the world!
5. How obedient are you? How obedient are we all? Reflect on the extent to which **obedience** plays a role in your everyday life, or in the lives of all of us.
6. How have we been conditioned to be blindly obedient since we were young? How have you been conditioned to be blindly obedient?
7. What did you find most interesting about the results of the **Milgram experiment**? What stood out to you about the behavior of subjects in the video? What do we learn from this experiment?
8. Think of times in your life when you have obeyed authority when you should not have. Have a looser idea of “authority figure” as you consider this question – it could be a teacher or a coach or a parent, but it could also simply be the de facto leader of a friend group. Anyways, share a story (or stories) of a time when you fell victim to **obedience**.
9. Reflect on the characteristics that make someone more or less convincing as an **authority figure**. Think about those authority figures who have really commanded your obedience. What were the qualities, both obvious and subtle, that contributed to their power as an authority figure?
10. What did you think about the **Stanford Prison Experiment**? What was most interesting or disturbing or important about the results of the experiment? What does this experiment tell us, exactly, about human beings, in your opinion?
11. If this experiment were done with young women instead of young men? Would the results have been different? Or the same? Why?
12. **How is CCHS the Stanford Prison Experiment**? How is this school set up similarly to the experiment? How is the experience here similar? How are the responses of people here similar to the responses of guards and/or prisoners in the experiment?
13. What do the results of the **Brown Eyes Blue Eyes** study tell you about human behavior? How important is this study? How is this study related to other ideas,

studies, and situations we have encountered in this class? What stands out to you about the way kids responded to the situation the teacher created?

### Cognitive Dissonance

14. Think about the irrational ways that people resolve cognitive dissonance. Have you ever fallen victim to cognitive dissonance in these ways? Or have you seen others fall victim in these ways?
  - A time you (or someone else) encountered evidence that clearly refuted what you believed or valued or really wanted. Rather than sincerely acknowledging this evidence and perhaps changing or altering your beliefs, you explained away or rationalized this evidence, or even found a way to use it to support your beliefs.
  - A time you (or someone else) were uncomfortable with your beliefs or actions, and you shared the situation with lots of other people in an attempt to get them to confirm your position or beliefs.
  - A time you (or someone else) used completely non-related information to support your beliefs or desires
  - A time that you (or someone else) purposely ignored or avoided a situation or conversation because it would provide evidence that went against your beliefs or desires (if I never ask her out, she can't say no).
15. Does something like "hell week" at the beginning of an activity (like the football team) actually strengthen the allegiance of group members for the duration of the activity? (relate to hazing study – beliefs follow behavior).
16. In general, is the idea that "beliefs follow behavior" true? That once you have acted in a certain way, you will align your beliefs to fit your behavior? Do you have examples from your own life or have you seen this in others? Have you ever committed so much to a certain activity or group or pursuit that you couldn't get yourself out of it, even though you perhaps knew on some level that you should have ended your commitment?
17. How does cognitive dissonance play a role in religious belief?
18. What are your thoughts on the Audrey Santo situation?