

Response to lucifer effect essay



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Ashley Barney Critical Response #1 BHS-1382 Robert J, Wafula January 26, 2012 A Critical Response to the Lucifer Effect Philip Zimbardo tries to establish in his writing how someone of good morals can exhibit harsh actions, what it takes for them to do such an unspeakable act, and the evidence of ungodly actions in recent history. The Lucifer Effect is organized in Mini Chapters to structure Zimbardo's writing. In the beginning of the essay, Zimbardo states the Lucifer Effect is his way to understand what happens in the time a good person does an evil act.

Zimbardo would like to know what happens in this transformation of a regular civilian to turn dark and dangerous. He calls the transformation the Lucifer Effect. This transformation is not what sounds like; it does not take a religious aspect but a psychological one. It is the Zimbardo gives many examples, including the Abu Ghraib Prison. This example demonstrated how good soldiers turned in to "A Few Bad Apples". (Zimbardo, pg. 155). When tormenting Iraqi prisoners in sexual and demeaning ways.

Zimbardo also introduces his experiment from the 1970's. This experiment was conducted by Zimbardo himself. It was a random picking of normal college students who mimicked guards and prisoners. The experiment went into a downward spiral and was shut down in only six days. As I write I wonder what does happen's in a person's head to make them do such cruel acts against another living thing. I was very intrigued by Philip Zimbardo's writing. He was very crisp and to the point of what he was writing.

Also you can read this [The Owl Has Flown Response](#)

On page 148-149, Zimbardo really breaks down the analyzing for the reader by really explain his thesis clearly, which is why do people do evil acts? I agree with page 148 the beginning of paragraph two, why do so called good people get off the hook when a person does a bad act. We as a society assume we have no part in their decision of destruction. I believe in the web of fate. Meaning every life touches another and a result is created by this weather it is good or bad. Zimbardo gives many examples in his book. The two that really caught my eye was the

Abu Ghraib Prison incident and Zimbardo's own experience of the Stanford Prison effect. The Abu Ghraib Prison is one I personally remember; I remember my family talking about how they deserved it. I also remember crying about it. At the age 16, it hurt my heart to see such defile acts to another human being for fun. I think social pressure mixed with psychological effects from the war was the start of this issue. These people seen many disturbing things during this war and I believe it took a big turn in their minds. Also there is the Stanford effect.

I looked this up online to get a better understanding of this experiment. It really reminded me of the book " Lord Of the Flies". I say this because it starts with normal innocent kids, or adults in this case, and ends in tragedy. Although, the Stanford Prison experiment just came to a halt, because they created a situation to that was a big for them to handle It was still compelling. I read the whole report on the situation by Dr. Zimbardo himself, and I really believe influences by other make a big part of the psychological part of the individuals mind.

In this experiment prisoners and guards adapted and fell into their roles of the prison system. Some of the Guards became ruthless and like to humiliate the prisoners, some prisoners forgot they were not really prisoners and obeyed every rule, and Zimbardo himself fell into the role of the superintendent and forgot what the experiment was about. I think the surrounding of the environment and the characters of people around a person has a part in the effects of ones decisions. In Conclusion, The Lucifer Effect is caused by change of surroundings for an individual.

The different people around a person can influence someone behaviors, weather to show off or was ordered to. In the beginning Zimbardo gives exclusive evidence in his writing and then evaluates his own evidence. Zimbardo writes in a different way he questions and then answers his own questions. Sometimes it was difficult to read but if read over again can be understandable. In the end it is about normal people like me who if put in stressful situation or a different environment can turn disturbing.