

Shot Paper Snippets
Social Psychology Spring 2006

- "...we all really wanted to drink since it was long week at school. So, my friends talked me into driving around town drinking in the car, till we found something better to do. At first, I was like 'hell no, I'm not doing that... its crazy and stupid,' but after a few comments from my buddies, I told myself 'OK, I am jsut going to have like one or two and I would be fine.'"

- "I had told my friends when I picked them up that I was not going to be drinking at all, because I had to drive home. That all changed though, once I go to the party, because one of my friends needed a partner for beer pong."

- "Just the thought of talking to the department chairs that were rumored to be cold, callus, and prone to say 'No' made my mouth go dry and my hands shaky."

- "In a moment we were convinced (to smoke pot) and yet again peer pressure and group thought played a factor in the outcome of 'my' decision, although it wasn't really my decision to make."

- "Mistake number one, my first beer was Milwaukee's Best... I could have sworn I was drinking peel.... When I woke up the next morning, I felt a bit guilt, and I had gone against my parents' wishes, because it was the complete opposite of what they had instilled in me."

- "There is no way I could do that (bungee jump) now. If there had not been other factors contributing to my decision, such as alcohol and peer pressure, I would have never done this on my own."

- "When we first got to the mall, I told them that I wanted to leave and not go through with their plan (shoplifting), but the peer pressure was too much for me to handle so I went along anyway....I eventually stopped being friends with them..."

- "Joining this sorority put me in an awkward position... Drugs, under-age drinking, promiscuity, and eating disorders are the norm and though I felt very strongly about all of these issues, I found myself becoming more accepting of them all."

- "Peer pressure was high and there was no way that I was going to just say no to an idea that everyone in the group was already completely in favor of (sealing road signs). There were friends as well, and this made it that mach easier to follow along....However, in the following days and weeks, whenever I actually thought about what we had done, it was burdensome and my conscious began to nag at me. We had done something which genuinely conflicted with my beliefs... I found the best way to deal with this issue was to actually ignore it."

- "She accused me of turning Andrew against her all those months ago, so I could have him for myself. Although that was not the way that things had really happened, I felt guilty for causing someone was once my friend pain."

- "After a few weeks of sorority meetings and public humiliation, I realized I had made a mistake. I realized I did not have to do what everyone else wanted me to do in order to keep my friendships and make new ones. After I can to this realization, I had decided to withdraw myself from the Sub-Debs."

- "Instead of being truthful and just saying that I considered myself Christian but did not necessarily practice it, I said that I was Baptist... I then rationalized how ridiculous what I had just done was."

-“I’ve been a strict Lacto-ovo vegetarian since I was a small child; around four. I don’t have a real or concise explanation for this, but everyone wants one. Everyone wants to point to a reason and say, ‘There, that’s why she’s a non-meat-eating freak.’”

-“Sadly, I would have much rather played outside or gone out with my friends, but because she expected good things of me, I would always put plans on hold if she needed me to assist her with various tasks throughout the community.”

-“I also questioned why I would even want to be friends with people, or even associate with people who stole things, even if I wasn’t doing it.”

-“Finally, I got a roommate and we became fairly close friends, which gave me enough confidence to go out in town and get to know some people without feeling so anxious.”

-“I still, to this day, don’t know all of the factors that drove me to be such a tattle tail. I mean, after all, it wasn’t my place to step in.”

- “I don’t know why I made this decision. I ditched all of my friends that I loved for jerks who made fun of anything that walked; all because I wanted to be popular.”

-“After an argument between me and Jennifer and a couple of other friends talking some sense into her, she FINALLY broke up with J... I feel she only did it to make us (her friends) happy.”

-“When people would ask what I was planning on doing when I graduated and I would reply with ‘community college’, I would get a frown along with an, ‘oh... .’ Society’s reaction to an associate’s degree made the whole idea humiliate.”

-“...I was a little disappointed in myself for giving into peer pressure, but then after thinking about it, I figured what I would have ended up trying it sometime in my life and now I do not have to wonder or be curious about what it is like to be drunk.”

-“‘Dude, what the hell is wrong? Why aren’t you drinking?’ At first I just gave them the generic excuses like, ‘I’m just not up to it.’ But, the onslaught of questions from people at the party did not show any signs of stopping, and their genuine and deep concern for my soberness did not either.”

-“I quickly gathered that everyone thought that I was mocking our teacher and even worse they thought I had planned it.”

-“I always felt like something was very wrong with what we were doing (drugs), but I did not say anything because we really did have a good time..”

-“I felt really bad that the kid was injured, but I began to feel a bunch of other feelings when I could hear that other team’s sideline yelling and booing at me. They began screaming things like, ‘He did it on purpose’ and ‘Take him out ref, don’t let him play!’”

-“I was very unsure about what we were doing (stealing a pair of jeans), I wasn’t exactly all for it, but I want to do it because my friend wanted me to do it.”

-“I feel really guilty about what happened with Monica’s shoes, but due to the fact that I never meant to [break them] in the first place and I tried to undo my wrong, I feel that I did everything I could have done to make the situation better.”

- “I felt that everything we are not physically forced into doing is a conscious decision, whether we admit it to ourselves or not. If a person is willing to do something that he or she would not normally do, it’s because there is an underlying motivation that makes this a normal decision under abnormal circumstances.”
- “...she was literally forced or expected to follow and believe how her mother did (devoutly Christian). This action that my cousin did (participating in religion) was clearly something being done against her own will, but was expected to do it and so she did.”
- “Our friendships started dwindling. Pledging was hard; everyone had their own schedules, party appearances, and sorority events to attend. That semester we hardly spoke to each other. We had all made new friends and now had ‘sisters’ who were better than friends.”
- “The next day I was mad at myself, because, not only did I know that I was not ready (to have sex) and it was inconsistent with my beliefs, but I realized I did it purely because my friends pressured me into it.”
- “My stomach still churns when I think about that gloomy October day..... I never thought I had it in me to lied to my parents or my best friends.”
- “I the other students thought Mrs. Gray had asked me to talk with him, but I really did this on my own because he did not deserve the abuse he had to deal with from day to day.”
- “For a few minutes, I felt good about what I did. I say it as standing up for myself. What goes around comes around. However, after I thought about it for a while, I realized that I should not have handled it that way. I felt like a hypocrite.”
- “I say his death as an eye-opener; to be more careful while my friends and I ‘party’, but it seemed not to have a positive effect on his closer friends, who still do drugs and drink and drive.”
- “Waking up with a hangover and making the choice to not go to mass is not something that makes me feel good or is steady with what I truly believe.”
- “It (and accident where a coworker was injured) replayed in my head over and over for days. She received worker’s compensation and I received a lot of unwanted attention. I carried myself pretty good, but I felt like a piece of dung. I felt like I became depressed and deserved some kind of punishment.”
- “When it was Kayla’s turn to read her poem, people expected nothing exciting because she hardly talked in class, so being the cruel and insecure adolescents that we were, I’m sure we all subliminally assumed her silence was ignorance.”
- “There is nothing wrong with drinking as long as one does not take it overboard all the time, like most college students.”
- “I think, in middle school it was so important for us to be “cool” that we did anything to make others think we were. I know inside I did not think the way I acted was OK, but just that I was too young and immature to act any different.”
- “...when they asked me to attend a church gathering with them, I hesitantly, but willingly obliged. I attended the event with my boyfriend and his family because I wanted to show them that I wasn’t against it, and partly for their approval.”