

Social Psychology Short Paper Snippets

Conformity, Compliance, & Obedience

- I could not believe that I had actually been so worried about everyone thinking that I was cool, that I would actually pick on someone like that.
 - I felt that if I did not want to do with sexual things with him, he would not want to be with me anymore...
 - I could not believe when I heard the word "Felony"... I knew that it was a bad idea, but I let others influence me and it definitely was not for the better.
 - After the event was over and I was able to look back on the situation, I really could not believe that I was standing outside yelling and cursing at people I did not even know, and for no apparent reason.
 - Sometimes decisions are like a tug-of-war, and not every situation allows for a winning side, because the result on either side might not be too pleasant.
 - I will never drink to that magnitude ever again. Nor will I ever give in to peer pressure, or feel that I will ever have to "fit in" anymore.
 - I traded in my thrift shop jeans and bandanas, for American Eagle sweaters and a ton of styling products. I felt the need to hide the real person I was.
 - I knew it was wrong to give them the discount, but she was an old family friend and I did not want to make her mad.
 - My behavior was completely changed by the social presence of others. Because of this social situation, I felt it was necessary for me to do the flip off of the swing to prove to everyone that I could do what he or she expected of me.... breaking both of my wrists.
 - I literally humiliated my best friend in front of the whole school, just to be seen as cool.
 - I had fallen to the peer pressure, resulting in an assault on an old lady. I felt absolutely horrible. I hated these kids for the variety of actions that I had just succumbed to committing.
 - I never dared to go to school sad or upset and I always kept a smile on my face no matter my real feelings. I was fake. I wanted people to have that perception of me, because those are the people I hung out with, who were my friends.
- I desperately wanted out of swimming, but I still kept doing it because of my mother.... It is just hard to let go of something— even if it does not mean anything to you— that means so much to someone else.

Correspondence Bias, FAE

- I wanted to get my tongue pierced, because I thought it was cool... When my parents found out about it they were really upset. Thought I had intentionally done it to hurt them.
- They wanted me thrown out of the game for unnecessary roughness. The tackle was unintentional. I dove for his legs, because it was the only part of his body that I could get to.
- I did not behave in that manner to impress someone or fit in with the norm. I did it because I felt like it at the moment. (*low social desirability, but not a dispositional attribution*)
- I had always gone out of my way to do things for them and now, suddenly, they said I had taken advantage instead. It seemed like they had forgotten about all of the times I had been giving and shown my true appreciation for them.
- I remember Nicole walking down the hall everyday with this pissed-off facial expression and ice taped to her ankles. That is the first mental picture I have in my head of her and thought, "Well, she is a brat."

- I hate it when I do something or say something that is unkind because I have had a bad day or get annoyed with the person.
- Everyone thought that I was trying to put him down right to his face, when in actuality I had no idea that was around.
- I do, however, know that after making that play (an accident), I felt greater pressure to perform at a higher level on the field. I felt as though my teammates and coaches believed I was a better ballplayer than I actually was.
- Even though I had done something awful, for some even unforgivable, she understood. She forgave me. She had raised two kids of her own and knew that what had happened was not done on purpose.
- Though I realize that it was never my intention to harm the boy, I suffered feelings of guilt and remorse. Intentionality seemed of little significance after the several sermons I received from my parents regarding my responsibility, as an older and larger person, to those who are younger and smaller than me.

Cognitive Dissonance

- My senses were on overdrive, because I was in constant fear of getting caught. I was disgusted with myself for even daring to defy my parents so blatantly.

Change Attitudes

- I put the stolen shorts in the back of my drawer and I never wore them.
- When my boyfriend and I were waiting for my friends to arrive, he told me about how the owners of the restaurant were known around that area for being racist.
- Person did not want to go to college, "For myself, doing something that others expected of me [going to college], was the best abnormal thing I could have done and I am thankful for those people.
- At first I thought that my decision to get married was very uncharacteristic for me, but after seeing people's reactions and dealing with the changes, I feel like it is now very characteristic of me.

Adding Consonant Cognitions

- As my life felt like it was dwindling away with every dry heave, I started thinking that it was my own fault for going against what I always believed. (*The Just World Hypothesis*)
- Going with my friend to have an abortion and witnessing all that I did, definitely intensified my feelings toward pro-life.
- I was not really sure why I decided to drink that week. When I got back, I dedicated even more of my time to church and Christian clubs.