

Essay Assignment on Stanley Milgram's *Obedience to Authority*:

Submit a MS Word file (.doc or .docx) via email to stonekim@lawrence.edu by **Wednesday 19 January 2011 at 11:00 AM**. Be sure to keep a copy for your records.

The paper should conform to the following format and style expectations:

- 3 – 5 pages, double-spaced, 10-12 point font with approximately 1 inch margins
- Number and put your last name on each page.
- All citations should be in MLA style (see Diana Hacker's *A Pocket Style Manual* for details).
- Reaffirm the honor code at the end of the paper. This reaffirmation assures me that the paper is your own work and none of it was written by another person except for those parts that are properly cited as quotations from Milgram's book or other sources. Also acknowledge (in a note at the end of the paper) the assistance of the writing tutor(s) who helped you craft the paper.
- The paper should have a title, but does not need a separate title page.

You are required to work with a CTL writing tutor (preferably Sam McGraw-Schuchman samantha.j.mcgraw-schuchman@lawrence.edu or Carly Roe carly.f.roe@lawrence.edu, our section's writing tutors) at least once in the writing process as you shape your ideas, write the paper, and revise your drafts. You may not be able to schedule a meeting if you wait too long to contact a tutor.

A good paper does one of two things: It answers a question or corrects a misunderstanding. In your paper, you should address one of the following misunderstandings*:

- Milgram shows that the Holocaust could have happened anywhere because people are basically evil.
- Milgram can't explain why some people obey while others don't.
- Milgram has no real solution to the problems he's uncovered. He thinks that there's a "fatal flaw" built into all human beings (see 188), but can't think of any way to compensate for it.
- Milgram brushes off the ethical objections to his research. His response to critics (in the first appendix) is completely unsatisfying.

I suggest laying out the misunderstanding in the intro. I also want to see a clear thesis statement at the end of that first paragraph. Extend and refine your argument in later paragraphs, and support your claims with examples and quotations from the text and perhaps from other sources. If you need help getting started, you might make use of this template:

Some critics of *Obedience to Authority* have argued that _____. At first glance, they may seem to have a point, since _____ and _____. Yet on closer inspection, some flaws in their arguments begin to appear. A careful rereading of Milgram's book reveals that it is not _____ but rather _____. Indeed, the best conclusion to draw about the issues raised by the critics is _____.

*This paper assignment is borrowed from Professor Tim Spurgin.