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**Webquest: Stanford Prison Experiment**

For this activity, explore the website <http://www.prisonexp.org/> which gives an overview of the 1971 Stanford Prison Experiment by Phillip Zimbardo. As you navigate through each page, discuss these questions with your partner and write your answers in the spaces below.

1. What are the effects of living in an environment with no clocks, no view of the outside world, and minimal sensory stimulation?
2. Consider the psychological consequences of stripping, delousing, and shaving the heads of prisoners or members of the military. What transformations take place when people go through an experience like this?
3. At first push-ups were not a very aversive form of punishment, but they became more so as the study wore on. Why the change?
4. How do you think you would have behaved if you were a prisoner in this situation? Would you have rejected these privileges in order to maintain prisoner solidarity?
5. Most prisoners believed that the subjects selected to be guards were chosen because they were bigger than those who were made prisoners, but actually, there was no difference in the average height of the two groups. What do you think caused this misperception?
6. Compare the reactions of these visitors to the reactions of civilians in encounters with the police or other authorities. How typical was their behavior?
7. In an exploratory study such as this, one problem is defining what the "data" are -- the information we should collect. Also, what should have been done to minimize the effects of experimenter bias on the outcome of the study? What were the dangers of the principal investigator assuming the role of prison superintendent?
8. In 2003 U.S. soldiers abused Iraqi prisoners held at Abu Ghraib, 20 miles west of Baghdad. The prisoners were stripped, made to wear bags over their heads, and sexually humiliated while the guards laughed and took photographs. How is this abuse similar to or different from what took place in the Stanford Prison Experiment?