



Corruption Unit Synthesis Assignment:

Option one: Video/Podcast Response to the following questions

Option two: Blog or written response to the following questions

Task: Students will watch the Dr. Philip Zimbardo Ted Talk "The Psychology of Evil" and the documentary film "The 7-5."

Then, you will have Dr. Zimbardo comment on three situations from "The 7-5." You should have a thesis (argument) and analysis (what would Zimbardo say based on quotes you've gathered).

How to Start

1. Gather quotes from the Ted Talk (I have included a couple below)
2. Using Specific Examples/Quotes from the Ted Talk, explain how Dr. Zimbardo would respond to/ react to the film "The 7-5."
3. Choose quotes/situations/specific examples from "The 7-5". *** Take two-three events from "The 7-5" and have Zimbardo comment on them.
4. Then justify the comment he would make with quotes from his talk. (This is analysis)



Suggested items Zimbardo might comment on:

- Conditions that made corruption possible in the 7-5
- Advice on how the NY City police could prevent corruption
- What made some police corrupt during this time
- He could reflect on a specific situation or statement that was made in the film
- Mike Or Kenny's 15-Volt Moment; parts of the 7 social processes that grease the slippery slope of evil



"I'm neither a good cop nor a bad cop, Jerome. Like yourself, I'm a complex amalgam of positive and negative personality traits that emerge or not, depending on circumstances."

7 Social Processes That Grease the Slippery Slope of Evil

- Mindlessly Taking the First Small Step
- Dehumanization of Others
- De-individuation of Self (anonymity)
- Diffusion of Personal Responsibility
- Blind Obedience to Authority
- Uncritical Conformity to Group Norms
- Passive Tolerance of Evil Through Inaction, or Indifference

SYNTHESIS GRADING RUBRIC - This is a first-draft response and will be assessed as such.

6 -The six response is superior.

Demonstrates an **insightful** understanding of the texts/films. Has a clear and thought-provoking THESIS.

The response shows a **sophisticated** approach to synthesis, including **pertinent references / quotes**.

The response has **incredibly detailed examples**.

The writing / video / podcast style is **effective and demonstrates skilful control of language**.

Despite its clarity and precision, the response need not be error-free.

5 -The five response is proficient, demonstrating a clear understanding of the texts/films at an interpretive level. Has a clear THESIS.

The response **clearly synthesizes** the concepts within the texts/films.

References (quotes/paraphrasing) may be **explicit or implicit and convincingly support** the analysis or argument.

The response has included **mostly detailed** examples

The writing / video / podcast is **well organized and reflects a strong command of the conventions of language**. Errors may be present, but are not distracting.

4 -The four response is competent. Has a simple thesis or a clear topic.

Understanding of the texts /films tends to be **literal and superficial**.

Some synthesis is apparent but **mainly from one text/film**.

The response may **rely heavily on paraphrasing** or just **retell parts of the texts/films without synthesizing**.

References are present and appropriate, **but may be limited**.

Some details / examples but could describe in more detail.

The writing / video / podcast is **organized and straightforward**.

Conventions of language are usually followed, but **some errors are evident**.

3 -The three response is a pass. Attempts a thesis/topic sentence.

Understanding of the texts / films may be **partially flawed**.

An attempt at synthesis is evident. References are **not clearly connected to the topic** or may be **repetitive**.

The response may be **somewhat underdeveloped and emergent**; needs more time.

Some examples, but not enough to show understanding of text/film

A sense of purpose may be evident, but **errors can be distracting**.

2 -The two response is inadequate.

While there is an attempt to address the topic, understanding of the texts / films or the task may be seriously flawed.

A response that makes reference to both texts but refers only fleetingly to one of them is inadequate.

The response may be seriously underdeveloped.

Errors are recurring, distracting, and impede meaning.

1- The one response is unacceptable. Although the response mentions both texts/films, it is too brief to respond to the topic or there may be a complete lack of control in the film / writing/ podcast. Does not include worst two offenses. Does not attempt to contribute to the education of others through commenting.

0 -The zero reflects a complete misunderstanding of the texts / films and/or the task, or is a restatement of the questions. Exclusive reference to only one text / film does not constitute synthesis.