



TK/PPD

Presentation planning document

Submit to: your TOK teacher

Both sides of the form must be complete.

Candidate name:

Candidate name:

Candidate name:

Title of presentation: Experimentation in the human sciences

Date: May 2012

Describe your real life situation

The Stanford prison experiment was conducted by Dr. Zimbardo and a team of researchers in 1971. Funded by the US Office of Naval Research to understand why the reason of conflicts between prisoners and guards. 24 students were selected and willingly participated. They were randomly selected as prisoners and guards. The experiment only lasted for 6 days out of the allotted two weeks.

State your central knowledge question (this must be expressed as a question)

Is experimentation a good method of investigation in human science?

Explain the connection between your real life situation and your knowledge question

-Experimentation is a scientific method which tries to lead us to sensible conclusions. When we conduct experiments variables are controlled, phenomena are critically investigated and from a large quantity of data patterns are observed. Experimentation is usually undertaken in natural sciences on non-human things. However, Zimbardo conducted this method of "experimentation" on human beings. From our knowledge we know how complicated the human being is, and so such experiments are going to be hard. He asked why we behave in certain way under certain condition. Our real life situation exposes the rigorous experimentation process and the difficult quest of variable control in the human sciences as well as a successful conclusion via induction.

Outline how you intend to develop your presentation, with respect to perspectives, subsidiary knowledge questions, arguments, etc. Responses below can be presented in continuous prose, bullet point, or diagrammatic form.

We will describe our real life situation, and then introduce the knowledge question afterwards:

Real life situation: Stanford Prison Experiment conducted by Dr. Zimbardo

Knowledge Question: Is experimentation a good method of investigation in the human sciences?

We will then talk about the role of experiments in science:

What is an experiment? What do we mean by observation, etc.?

We then want to present some problems in the human sciences:

Are there patterns in human behaviour? Variables, measurements...

In particular, there is internal knowledge and external description:

How human scientists try to communicate to the internal environment of humans. (Milgram experiment) – we can never know for certain what people are thinking or how they feel

Difficulties in studying human behaviour when doing experiments:

Observer effect, butterfly effect, ethical questions (stress, privacy invasion), inconsistency etc.

Advantages and disadvantages of human sciences

Possible solutions for improvement in experimentation in the human sciences (double blind experiment, habituation, etc.)

Slight comparison of natural and human sciences.

Conclusion. Experiments are a good method of experimentation in the human sciences.

Show how your conclusions have significance for your real life situation and beyond

Even though experiments in the human sciences are stained with obstacles they are very advantageous in helping us to understand significant human behaviours.

As proven by our real life situation, under some conditions of stress and power human beings can change their behaviour and act in ways they wouldn't act under normal circumstances.

Experimentation in the human sciences helps us to identify trends in human behaviour and guide us to acquire answers to correct negative human behaviours.

Word count = 437