**Video Title:** Milgram Obedience Study

**Video URL:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W147ybOdgpE>

**Run Time:** 9:54

**Source:** SundanceTV/YouTube

**Closed Caption Available:** Yes

This video shows footage from Milgram's original obedience experiment done in 1962. Some commentary is provided by Milgram himself. Milgram's experiments, while controversial, taught us an important lesson about human behavior: You can take an ordinary person and place him/her into an extraordinary situation and observe behavior that is far beyond what we would expect from a normal person. It helped answer the question of whether the German people were uniquely susceptible to orders from authority or were responding to the situation they were in. Milgram found, contrary to what experts believed before the experiment, that ordinary people would obey an experimenter and administer electric shocks of 450 volts to an innocent person. Milgram's experiment places a real participant in the role of the "teacher" in a learning experiment. He or she would have to administer an electric shock to the "learner" (actually working with Milgram, no shocks were administered) each time the learner made a mistake on a learning test. The catch was that for each error the intensity of the shock had to be increased by 15 volts. If the participant balked, the experimenter prodded him or her to continue (e.g., The experiment requires you to continue, please go on). As you watch the video, answer the following questions:

1. What was the main question that Milgram wanted to address in his obedience experiments?

2. Describe some of the important elements of Milgram’s experiment.

3. What were the reactions of the subjects shown in the video?

4. Why do you think that Milgram's participants went all the way to 450 volts?

5. Do you think you would have gone all the way to 450 volts (why or why not)?