

## *Obedience and Remembering My Lai* Alternative Assignment

For background on the Milgram experiment and *Obedience*

1. Listen to to *Radiolab* “The Bad Show” (8:56 - 25:21)  
<https://www.wnycstudios.org/story/180092-the-bad-show/>

2. Check out the Wikipedia entry on the Milgram Experiment

Questions for consideration:

- Could you recreate this experiment today?
- How do you feel about the fact that the test subjects didn’t consent to this study?
- Why did this experiment leave such a lasting impression on the world?
- How do you feel you would have acted if you participated in the experiment?  
What makes you sure of this response?
- Do you “always have a choice” when it comes to situations like these?

For background on the My Lai massacre and *Remembering My Lai*

1. Read one of the following articles on the massacre:

“50 Years On, My Lai Massacre Remains A Gaping Wound” [contains graphic images]  
A retrospective on the atrocity and its legacy  
<https://www.npr.org/2018/03/16/594364462/my-lai-massacre-of-1968-continues-to-resonate-in-america>

“Coverup” [mentions sexual assault]  
An in-depth exploration of the massacre and attempts to hide it from public knowledge  
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1972/01/22/i-coverup>

“Meet the Participants” [mentions violence]  
A “who’s who?” of those that acted in and surrounding the massacre  
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/my-lai-selected-men-involved-my-lai/>

Questions for your consideration:

- How does an atrocity like this happen?
- Who is the most responsible for the massacre?
- How does this relate to your knowledge of war and the American military?
- How does this relate to your understanding of the Milgram experiment?
- How do we ensure that this never happens again?