...which will be available to you when it's all over, and put all together, then you can come down and look through the films, the video tapes, the tapes, etc. You might even want to bring friends down when it's all over to look at it. When the experiment ends you might want to bring people in to see what happened here.

Let me start officially then, now that we've finished the forms, you've signed the things, and you've begun, you're getting paid.

My name is Phil Zimbardo, I'm a professor of psychology here. I've gotten interested in both prisons and the way which certain situations influence people's behavior. I got interested in prisons for a number of reasons. I did work on techniques that the police use to get confessions, psychological techniques since they can't use third degree, and then got involved with some individual prisoners, at least one of whom has been sentenced to death, and it is clear to me you know, that his confession was coerced, and that that was the only evidence they had...so I had a personal interest in prisons, and also an academic one...which is what is the way police use psychology to further their ends? During the course of the term last year some students of mine were interested in prisons and decided to try to set up a prison. Dave Jaffe who is going to be the Warden in this study was the one in charge of that, in fact he set up a prison over a weekend. He will describe what happened. Nothing as elaborate as this, but some interesting things came out of it. In the course of that we met an ex-convict a guy named Carlo Prescott who has been serving 16 years in prison and is just out recently. He taught a course here this summer called 'The psychology of imprisonment'--you may have heard about it. Well through that course we got interested in 'what does a prison mean, what does it do to prisoners, what are all the things that go to creating a prison, setting up a prison, and Prescott
Orientation of Guards

made us aware of the fact that a prison is just a physical metaphor for the loss of freedom we all of us feel in different ways because of our race, because of our sex, because of the being self conscious, so essentially we're setting up a physical prison here to study what that does and those are some of the variables that we've discovered are current, those are some of the psychological barriers. And we want to recreate in our prison that psychological environment. There are some things which obviously we can't do, that is, people know that they're going to be there only for 2 weeks at a maximum, and very often prison is a long period of time, or in California prisons an indeterminate sentence, you can be put in for a year to life, or you know, five to life, or one to thirty. They know it's going to end after 2 weeks. They also know there's some limits to what we can do. Because in real prisons you know, there are gang raids, and guys get beaten up and get electric shocks and sometimes they even get killed. They know there are upper limits to what we can do. Nevertheless we can create boredom; we can create a sense of frustration; we can create a sense of fear in them, to some degree; we can create a notion of arbitrariness that their life is totally controlled by us, by the system, you, me, Jaffe and so they'll have no privacy at all. The cells—they're going to be sleeping in rooms with bars, and they'll be constant surveillance—nothing they do will go unobserved. They have no freedom of action, they can do nothing, or say nothing that we don't permit. We're going to take away their individuality in various ways. They're going to be wearing uniforms and at no time will anybody call them by name. None of you will and we will, and they'll have numbers and will be called by numbers, and we will insist at least that they do it to each other—if they want to do it privately then that's another thing we'll discover. In
general what all of this leads to is a sense of powerlessness, that is, we have total power in the situation and they have none, and the question is what will they try to do to gain some power to gain some individuality to gain some freedom, some privacy, to essentially work against us to regain some of what they have now—free to move outside, and we’re going to take away whatever freedom or any privacy they have. So essentially that’s what we’re doing, and Curt and Craig will describe the kinds of data we will be collecting, and that’s the experiment part, that we’re collecting data. I described some of it before—what we want from you—observation. You ask the question about money. For the study if it runs 2 weeks, it will cost us oh, somewhere between 5 to 8 thousand dollars, just for 2 weeks. Now we’re using money—subvertive from a government grant—I got a grant to study how the conditions which lead to mob behavior, violence, loss of identity, feelings of anonymity. I have done some previous studies with this before on vandalism, putting cars out in Palo Alto, New York, maybe you’ve read about that. And just observed—studies I did. Just set people up at counters, just observing people became vandals came and stripped the cars and destroyed them. This is a similar kind of thing and we just okay, we’re just interested in setting up a prison and seeing how people adapt to roles and they went along with that, so that’s why we’re doing this in grand style, rebuilding downstairs, paying you $15 a piece—the prisoners we have laundry, to feed them 3 meals, beds, bedding/towels, prisoners are bringing nothing into the situation. Now I think what I’m going to tell you before and he’s going to take over because I have to go to the police department. The important thing obviously is the prisoners all think this is fun and games— you know, $15 bucks a day to sit around, you know, and not do anything. We don’t know how long it’s going to run. It can run as
as much as 2 weeks—every prison study has 2 weeks' time usually a weekend.

If it looks like it's too heavy we might have to end earlier.

If something else happens we will learn after 2 weeks that we have the
space and freedom to do that. The problem we were facing was how to make
it start...suppose you were prisoners and you came in and this girl
came in while you were in prison, oh well, here it is
gambled

We know you're a person, a subject, you know, you're
you're Andre, you're an individual, and it's going to take us a long tim
to take that away, and that's not what really happens when you get
to your cell. So what's going to happen is, we told the
students to wait in their houses, or rooms or other places— Squad cars
are going to crawl up (laugh) two policemen are going to come out and
ask guy his name, say he's been suspected of a crime, they'll just leave
it vague, they'll say drugs or something. (laugh) Come with us, handcuff
him, put him in the car, take him down to the police station, take him to
the security underground entrance, can him, fingerprint him, book him
blindfold him and then Curt and Craig are going to pick him up—because
they'll be blindfolded they won't while moving out, then bring
them down and take the blind folds off then they'll be in prison. Then
we're going to take their clothes off, delouse them with a powder spray
put on a uniform—we have some people making uniforms, they're just going
to be like long smocks with numbers on them, and they'll have rubber
shower shoes, and that's all, not other clothes or anything, and they're
going to wear a chain on one leg which is just a symbolic thing of loss
of freedom. To stop running away or to put them more under our control
when they go to the bathroom or something, we're going to put a second
chain on and link the two together so that they can't really run—I mean
they can walk slowly, and there your experiment starts with them. So I think
that their experience will keep it from being fun and games, and from that point whoever three of you who will be guards, or Jaffe that at no point will we mention study or experiment--they are in a prison--from that point on we then do the things that we're all going to agree on today, that is in terms of trying to produce these varied psychological states in them for however long it goes. The police have agreed to do this, I just have to go down and give them the names and so forth. In fact, it may even be that KRON-TV when they heard the police were going to be in on it, said that they might even come and film some of it tomorrow to do as a feature story, and if they do then for some of the people they pick up, as the guy's being taken up by the police, there will be a KRON-TV (much laughter) I think it's going to have, as I was going to say is we'd like it to have real impact for from the beginning, and not just be you know a kind of silly ass study.

Will this be by Campus Security, or by real police?

The real police (laughter) I've cleared this with the Captain and Lieutenant and I have to see the sergeant who's actually going to set--you know, they'll be handcuffed, well, we've got these clubs, they loaned us, the three guys on duty will carry these or keep them in some place, so they have in fact loaned us the clubs--we have to pick up handcuffs today 'cos we'll handcuff them on the way down. These are the kinds of things we have been thinking of to make it a real experience--there are some others that about. Some of the things that you may come up with today, but seem of it be situation you see we overlooked the whole thing--develop a rule or procedure, or somebody who handles the rule. So if there are any general
you want to ask me, and then I'll turn it over to Dave and we'll meet again later. He's going to show you the facility, develop the rules, have you go through the, pick about shifts and then I guess later today buy the, get your uniforms and other things. And any kind of questions on the things I've said up to now, or

Q: You’ll be paying?

Z: Whenever it ends. We will set it up so that you'll be paid, by check on the same day, because we know some of you when it's over are splitting, some of you don't live here, so we have arranged with Payroll that we tell them each day that you're here and we just and if it ends next Tuesday, we'll call up next Tuesday morning and say 'okay, we have the check ready' and we can give you the checks on the spot.

Q: Will the 8-hour shifts of the guards, will the food be included in that?

Z: Only for lunch, I mean only for the 10-6. We will have coffee there and fruit and cookies and juice and spring water from the floor— we'll have that stuff there in the refrigerator, so people on the other shifts won't have a regular meal but they'll have you know some stuff you can go right in and take. Now for example, the 2 a.m. -10 shift, most of that time is 10-6, that's the shift when they'll be awake full time and doing something and you'll have to be active. From 6-2, half of that time they will be sleeping—there'll be a lock-up let's say at 10 o'clock, lights out some decided time. There'll be relatively little for you to do although you can't sleep, you have to be there in case you know, they might plan something. And from 2-10 you know, they're going to have breakfast, I don't know what time we'll wake them up 7, 8 so the latter two shifts which are less desirable in
some ways might be more desirable because you know, there's less to do, just amount to sitting around.

Q

We won't be able to have visitors there--we shouldn't have visitors come visit the cells.

Z

No, nobody can... well to show you what it's like there's this long corridor and it's boarded off in both ends, and we can't have anybody coming in. There'll be a guard room, there'll be two rooms off of that, so if you wanted to meet somebody there, or if you wanted to have somebody look at it there'll also be a place where you can look through, you see have somebody come in and look through, but nobody actually goes on the floor except us, except me, them, Jaffe and you. Nobody else would be allowed into the prison thing. There'll be visiting hours that the prisoners will have and they can bring somebody in... we'll determine how many days they should have, how many, and that's something we can away, that's take later as a privilege.

Anymore questions?