

2.2 – 2 Opinions and Social Pressure

Variables that increased and decreased conformity in Asch's experiment were group composition, unanimity, prior commitment, self esteem, cultural differences, task difficulty / complexity.

The deeper and more troubling questions about conformity and obedience to authority arise in everyday real world (e.g. school-life, work life) contexts. What is it like to be a high school student caught up in a popular classroom teacher's effort to simulate life in a totalitarian society?