

I initially chose to do my project on the CIA's "Mind Control" experiments known as; Project MKUltra because I had just heard about it online just a few days before picking a topic to do the NHD project on. I found the topic interesting and mysterious so I started researching. At first I was unsure of the direction in which I was going with this project. All I really knew was that I wanted to do the project on MKUltra. Initially I thought about doing either a tri-fold exhibit or creating a website. I decided to choose the website because I figured I could make it look like one of those eerie conspiracy pages you find online about 911 or the illuminati; I figured it provided more creative freedom and liberated me from my very limited artistic talent. Next I was faced with deciding what essential question would I base my thesis off of. First, the question was "To what extent was the rest of the government aware of the project's illegalities and unethical behaviors?" and I realized that once I found out and answered the basically yes-or-no question there really was not much else to say. So, I decided to change it to: "Was Project MKUltra ethical?" I saw this as more open-ended and thought provoking, even though the answer is quite obviously no. So from there I went researching to gather more knowledge of what the experiments included, who was involved, what were some of the effects. I searched for surviving subject's testimonies and searched for real, declassified documents themselves. I started putting together my website and once I got general background information on the site, as well as the thesis, real documents, accounts from survivor Whitey Bulger, and a documentary I ran out of Ideas on what to put on the site. I started to look at some sample sites on the NHD website and noticed that what I saw on a lot of other websites that mine lacked were a lot of quotes. So I went looking for quotes and found a few that supported my thesis, however; there was not much to be found. I found that a lot of the information I saw online was very repetitive and I ran out of new material to add to the site. If I could do the project again I think I would have rather done a paper on the topic, instead of a website. It was very interesting gathering all the info on the project and I feel I learned a lot from a wide variety of sources.

Thesis:

Project MKUltra was completely unethical and also illegal, violating subject's rights as US citizens. According to ethical guidelines for psychological experiments the formal consent must be given from the subject of the experiment, the subject must be briefed on the full extent of the experiment before it takes place, and by no means is the experiment to cause any harm to the subject, in any form. MKUltra did not follow a single one of these guidelines.