Deviance Project

1. **This assignment asks you to violate the norm individually or with a partner** and write a report that explains the experience. The objective of the research is to determine the extent to which norms influence behavior. Thus, you will want to play particular attention to the research of both **yourself and others** who are part of the situation.

Before you begin this assignment, be certain you study the following guidelines.

* 1. Select a norm common in our society. **Be sure it is a folkway** and not a more.
  2. Break the norm in a social setting, OBSERVE the reactions of others and yourself, and RECORD as quickly as possible those reactions.
     1. *Vary the conditions* (e.g., place, time, audience).
     2. *Violate the norm in a social setting.* It does not count if you wear your clothes backwards in your closet!
     3. *Reactions.* Pay attention to both verbal and nonverbal reactions.
  3. **DO NOT**:
     1. Break any laws or cause anyone else to break the law.
     2. Cause any harm to yourself or anyone else.
     3. Do anything that is legally or morally questionable, or that could bring negative sanctions against yourself or the school district.

IV. **The following format** is to be followed as you write up this exercise. Please note that this is a skeletal outline and is intended to help you decide what information to include in your report. Be sure to cover all of these points, but don’t feel that you are limited to them. Elaborate and be creative where you can. Incorporate as much as you can from your learning about sociology in everyday settings.

V. **The written Portion** should be 1 ½ to 2 pages in length, typewritten, 12-point font and double-spaced. Good grammar and sentence structure are expected.

# The format to use:

1. Statement of the problem
   1. Define the norm you will violate.
   2. Describe briefly how this norm acts as a mechanism of social control.
   3. Describe what you will do to violate the norm.
2. Hypothesis
   1. Describe the range of possible reactions others will have to the violation of this norm.
   2. What do you predict the major reaction will be?
3. Describe the setting
   1. Physical – where is the norm violation-taking place?
   2. Social – how many and what types of persons are observing?
4. Describe the incident – tell what happened.
5. Summary and interpretation
   1. How did you feel, as you were violation the norm?
   2. Why did you feel the way you did?
   3. Did people react the way you expected? Explain.
   4. Did you encounter any difficulties in carrying out your assignment?
   5. What if anything, did you learn about how norms exercise social control?
   6. Any other pertinent information.

***Possible topics but not limited to the following:***

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| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Convenience*** | ***Manners*** | ***Other*** |
| * Holding Door | * Eating with the right utensil | * Change in Clothing style |
| * Paying in Change | * Eating loudly | * Hair style or color |
| * Walking on the wrong side of the hallway | * Using hands to eat | * Respecting privacy (Space) |
| * Whisper when you talk (Seinfeld quiet talker) | * Speak very formally to friends and family | * Greet people in very formal or unusual manner |
| * Ask strangers if you can cut in line, Don’t feel like waiting! | * Eat your meal while standing | * Have random people tie your shoes |
| * Ask parents, teachers, etc. for permission for everything at home | * When people ask you how was your day, tell them about your whole day | * Wearing different shoes |
| * Sit in other students desks in class (not ours) | * Eye Contact, never make with teachers or friends | * Look up all the time |
| * Don’t fill in uncomfortable pauses in conversations | * Answer the phone and wait for the other person to talk first | * I love you when ending a conversation even with friends |