

Deviance Assignment

I. Procedure

- a. This assignment asks you to violate a norm and write a report about the experience. The objective of the research is to determine the extent to which norms influence behavior. Thus, you will want to pay particular attention to the reactions of both YOURSELF and OTHERS who are a part of the situation.
- b. Before you begin this assignment, be certain to study the following guidelines:
 - i. Select a norm common in our society. Be sure to choose a folkway and not a more.
 - ii. Before you enter the field to do your research, be certain you have filled out parts one and two of the report (see below). This will help ensure that you have a firm grasp of your hypothesis in advance.
 - iii. Break the norm in a social setting (it does not count if you wear your clothes backwards in your closet), observe the reactions of others and yourself, and record those reactions as quickly as possible.
 - iv. Vary the conditions (place, time, audience).
 - v. DO NOT
 1. Break any laws or cause anyone else to break the law.
 2. Cause harm to yourself or anyone else.
 3. Do anything that is legally or morally questionable or that could bring negative sanctions against yourself, the class, the school, or your instructor.

II. Format

- a. 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 do not 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.
- b. The report should be a minimum/maximum of two pages in length, typed, double-spaced, and in MLA format. Good grammar and sentence structure are expected.
 - i. Statement of the Problem
 1. Describe the norm you will violate.
 - ii. Hypothesis
 1. What do you predict the major reaction to be?
 - iii. Describe the Setting
 1. Physical—Where is the norm violation taking place?
 2. Social—How many and what types of persons are observing?
 - iv. Summary and Interpretation:
 1. How did you feel as you were violating 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?