Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Norm Violation Experiment

Directions: This assignment asks you to violate a norm/folkway and write about the experience. The objective is to determine the extent to which norms influence behavior. Thus, you will want to pay attention to the reactions of both **YOURSELF and OTHERS** who are part of the situation.

1. Select a norm common in our society. Be sure it is a folkway and not a more!!

\*Some suggestions: Stand facing the back of an elevator

Invade someone’s personal space

Speak too loudly or too quietly

Talk to yourself in public

Avoid eye contact or give too much eye contact

Go up to a stranger and start talking to them

Wear the opposite clothes for the weather

Wear clothes of the opposite gender

1. BEFORE you enter the field to do your research fill out parts 1 and 2 of this sheet.
2. BREAK the norm in a social setting. OBSERVE the reactions (verbal and nonverbal) of others and yourself, and RECORD those reactions.
3. Violate the norm in as normal of a setting as possible. For example don’t break the norm of shaking with the wrong hand in a situation where you would not normally shake hands.
4. Break the norm with strangers (school, mall, etc.). Violating in a family setting does not often allow for valid reactions.
5. Break the norm at least twice to attempt to see a range of reactions.
6. **DO NOT:** 
   1. **Break any laws or cause anyone else to break the law.**
   2. **Cause harm to yourself of anyone else.**
   3. **Cause anyone to become scared or uncertain of your intentions.**

## PRE-EXPERIMENT

**Part 1: Statement of the problem**

1. Define the norm/folkway you will violate.

1. Describe what you plan to do to violate the norm/folkway.

**Part 2: Hypothesis**

1. Describe the two possible reactions others will have to the violation of this norm.

a.

b.

1. What do you predict the major reaction will be? Identify if you think it will be a verbal or non-verbal response. Explain why.

## POST-EXPERIMENT

**Part 3: Describe the Setting**

1. Physical – where is the norm violation taking place?

1. Social – how many and what types of persons are observing?

**Part 4: Describe the Incident**

1. Describe in detail what happened with each attempt.

1. Attempt #1

1. Attempt #2

**Part 5: Summary and Interpretation**

1. How did you feel as you were violating the norm?

1. Why did you feel the way you did? Explain

1. Did people react as you expected? Explain.

1. What difficulties did you encounter when carrying out your experiment?

1. Discuss two observations about norms in our society

a.

b.