

Name _____ Hour _____

Norm Violation Experiment - 30 points

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
- Guys - carry a purse and make a purchase or wear full make-up
- Invade someone's personal space
- Speak too loudly or too quietly
- Talk to yourself
- Avoid eye contact or give too much eye contact
- Talk to strangers
- Stare at the person in the car next to you when at a red light
- Extend your left hand to shake hands with someone or shake too long

2. BEFORE you enter the field to do your research fill out parts 1 and 2 of this sheet.
3. BREAK the norm in a social setting. OBSERVE the reactions (verbal and nonverbal) of others and yourself, and RECORD those reactions.
4. 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.
5. Break the norm with strangers. Violating in a family setting does not often allow for valid reactions. If you feel there is an exception, see me.
6. Break the norm at least twice to attempt to see a range of reactions.
7. **DO NOT:**
 - a. Break any laws or cause anyone else to break the law.
 - b. Cause harm to yourself or anyone else.
 - c. 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.
2. 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.
2. 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?
2. Social - how many and what types of persons are observing?

