

Hey! That's not NORMAL

Norms are such a pervasive feature of everyday life that we often cannot recognize or analyze them. This assignment will have us examine norms and sanctions at work in our culture. To complete this assignment, you will be in groups of 2-4. Each group will commit a norm violation.

Steps to this assignment:

1. Brainstorm: Meet with your group and decide on a social norm that you will violate. You will actually be dealing with “folkways” or “weak” norms that specify what is accepted behavior of our culture. **You cannot break the law, or any school rule. WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE AT EITHER MALL OR IN A DRIVE-THRU - you will earn a zero for this project if you go to these locations.**

What would the reaction be, for instance, if you walked up to a table of strangers at a restaurant, sat down, and began eating with them? How about if you faced backwards while riding an elevator? These behaviors are obviously not what is expected in our culture. **Remember, your experiment must NOT break the law or any other established rules, violate any school rules, or cause any other person harm.** *If you do violate any rules, laws, or cause someone harm, you will receive a ZERO on this assignment and will receive additional punishment accordingly.*

2. Agree on your methods: As a group you should next decide on how you will go about conducting your experiment. Where are you going to violate a norm? How are you going to videotape this without people finding out what you're doing? When are you meeting? At least one person should be the one to violate the norm. The other person(s) in the group will be observers. If you all want to participate in breaking norms, you may want to recruit another person to videotape for you. **You will not be allowed to leave class to conduct this experiment. Your group is responsible for finding time OUTSIDE of class to get together and complete this assignment.** All group members are expected to participate in each aspect of this assignment. In addition to Mr. Nettleton grading your assignment, you will be grading each of your group members as well as yourself on your participation in this assignment.

3. Get approval from your teacher: Your next step is to get approval from Mr. Nettleton as I may have some suggestions or revisions for you. **Your experiment MUST be approved before you begin!** You need to submit a written proposal to Mr. Nettleton outlining your experiment. After Mr. Nettleton approves your experiment, if you alter your experiment in ANY way without getting permission beforehand you will NOT be able to share your findings with the class and you will receive a ZERO. **Mr. Nettleton needs to preview each video BEFORE it is shown to class. If your video is not previewed it will NOT BE SHOWN and you will receive a ZERO.**

4. Conduct your experiment and record the reactions: One or more people in your group should serve as reporters to observe the reactions you will get. You might want to conduct the experiment more than once, since you just might get ignored the first time! It is ideal if you can videotape or tape record the experiment so that you can show it to our class. Your group will be responsible for reporting your findings/presenting your video or tape to the class, as well as describing the norm(s) that you violated.

5. Report back to the class: Be able to explain what you did, what happened as a result, and why you feel you got the reaction(s) you did. **Each group will need to turn in one of the following: 1. Video 2. Audio recording or 3. Written summary of your reactions** You will also be writing a reflection journal, where you will grade yourself and your group members as well as evaluate your project.

***PROJECT Due Date:** *Video, audio or written summary of reactions are due (1 per group)
***INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION JOURNAL Due Date:** *Individual Journal Responses are due

	Excellent	Average		Needs Improvement	
	5	4	3	2	1
Project proposal submitted/approved (on time, thorough, accurate info.)	10	8	5	3	1
Class Presentation	20	17	14	9	5
Thoroughness of Project (met requirements, violated norm)	15	12	8	5	2
Journal/Evaluation					
Total:	/50 points				