

Social Psychology: Violating a social norm assignment

For this assignment, you need to choose a behavior that is not technically “wrong” or illegal, but somehow breaks the rules of expected behavior.

Then, write up your results: note the specifics (who/what/when/where/how/why) of what you did, why you chose that particular act, how people reacted (as you expected?) and your own reaction to the experience.

Include (and effectively apply) **3 or more thoughtfully chosen bold terms** from the chapter in the chapter (aside from “norm”).

Note: If you use “real world” terms (e.g. culture, attitude, etc.) be sure that you’re demonstrating your understanding of the psychological definition of the term. Do not make the mistake of simply inserting the term in a middle of a sentence without demonstrating your understanding of it in that specific instance.

Please write this up in 1-2 typed, double-spaced pages. Worth 30 points for term 4. Grading will be based on:

____ / 10 Thoughtfulness and originality (of the idea itself, the execution of it and how you explain and analyze it in the write-up)

____ / 10 Accuracy and relevancy of terms used (correctly applied to the situation) and thoughtfulness of choices

____ / 10 Quality of the writing (clearly and fluidly written, well organized and proofread)

____ / 30 total

Due Monday 4/29. Please post to Classroom before class on the due date.

Here are some examples of norm-breaking I’ve seen in the past (and, for the sake of originality, do not want to see repeated!):

- Paying for something entirely in change
- Sitting in the sit right next to someone on a nearly empty bus or train
- Ordering dinner before dessert
- Saying “goodbye” instead of hello, or “you’re welcome” instead of thank you
- Actually responding to the question when someone greets you with a “how are you?” or a “what’s up?”