**Guidelines for Write-up of**

**Breaking a Social Norm Assignment**

(With thanks to Eells and Unnithan in [Kain and Neas](http://www.asanet.org/introtosociology/Documents/RelevTeaRefs030608.htm), 1993, pp. 55-56.)

**Directions:**  Break a social norm of dress/attire. (Caution: do not wear anything illegal, dangerous, or extremely disruptive.) Try dressing in female clothes if you are male. Wear formal attire to a casual get together. Wear a winter jacket in the summer. Wear sandals in the snow. Wear stripes with polka dots. Wear an unstylish or outdated outfit.

(2) Next, interact with others and observe their responses while wearing your norm-breaking outfit.

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 don’t 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.

This report should be 1-2 pages in length, typed and double-spaced.  Good grammar and sentence structure are expected.

The format to use:

1.                Statement of the Problem

A.    Define the norm you will violate.

B.    Describe briefly how this norm acts as a mechanism of social control.

C.    Describe what you will do to violate the norm.

2.                Hypothesis

A.    Describe the range of possible reactions others will have to the violation of this norm.

B.    What do you predict the major reaction will be?

3.                Describe the setting

A.    Physical—where is the norm violation taking place?

B.    Social—How many and what types of persons are observing?

4.                Describe the incident—tell what happened.

5.                Summary and Interpretation

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

B.    Why did you feel the way you did?

C.    Did people react the way you expected?  Explain.

D.   Did you encounter any difficulties in carrying out your assignment?

E.    What, if anything, did you learn about how norms exercise social control?

F.     Any other pertinent observations.