

Norm-Breaking Research Paper

Due: July 23, 2020 at 11:59pm

- 1) Conduct one of the norm-breaking experiments listed below
- 2) Write the results in a paper using the following format

INTRODUCTION (1 paragraph)

Define “social norms” and describe the social norm that you chose to break. Please include and underline your thesis statement. Use the writing workshop video as a guide for writing your thesis statement.

METHOD (1 paragraph)

Provide a detailed step-by-step description of what you did. E.g. “I downloaded Tinder. I swiped right on 15 people. I messaged all of my matches and said that I really liked them and wanted to be in a relationship with them.”

RESULTS (3-4 paragraphs)

Provide a detailed account of what happened. In three separate paragraphs, describe

- (1) How people verbally responded to your behavior. What did they say? What type of language did they use? Written responses count as verbal responses
- (2) How people non-verbally responded to your behavior. Did they un-match you? Did they downvote your comment? Did they like your video? Did they frown or tense their shoulders?
- (3) How did you feel before, during, and after the experiment. Were you embarrassed, nervous, excited?

You may add an additional paragraph describing how people responded after you told them it was an experiment, if applicable.

DISCUSSION (3-6 paragraphs)

Connect your results to at least 3 of the following course concepts:

Reliability

Validity

Culture

Material Culture

Nonmaterial Culture

Socialization

Primary Socialization

Secondary Socialization

Nature-Nurture question

Self

I & Me

Looking-Glass Self

Self-Esteem

Reflected Appraisals

Symbolic Interactionism

Dramaturgy
Front Stage Self
Back Stage Self
Social Stratification
Role Theory
Status
Achieved Status
Ascribed Status
Role
Role Strain
Role Conflict
Role Overload
Social Institutions
Primary Groups
Secondary Groups
Social Categories
Loose Associations
Social Networks
Expectations States Theory
Status Structures
Performance Expectations
Specific Status Characteristics
Diffuse Status Characteristics
Stereotypes
Status Generalization
In-Groups
Out-Groups
Reference Groups
Group Conformity
Groupthink

*You may also use course concepts not included on this list, as long as they are mentioned in course videos or readings.

Define these concepts and explain how your results reflect these ideas in detail. Concepts should be written in **bold text** so they are easy to identify when glancing at your paper. Please use in-text citations when referencing course material. If referencing a course video, please include the name of that video in parentheses. E.g. (“Group Processes and Structures”). If referencing a course reading, please include the author’s last name and the publication year in parentheses. E.g. (Peguero 2012). You do not need to include a reference list or bibliography, since you will only be referring to course material.

Your paper should be typed, Times New Roman, 12-point font, with 1” margins. Papers must be a minimum of 5-full pages and a maximum of 7-full pages.

PICK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING EXPERIMENTS:

- **EATING WITH HANDS:** Ask your family members or roommates to sit down and eat a meal with you. Instead of using your serving utensils, you may only use your hands to eat. Try to last at least 15 minutes.
- **BAD LISTENER:** During a conversation, continue to talk instead of listening when the other person tries to speak. Try to last at least 15 minutes.
- **TIK TOK TREND BREAKER:** Upload a Tik Tok using a popular audio clip out of context or doing the wrong dance moves to a song. Aim for at least 10 comments on your video. (Honestly, I have no idea how this will go, so choose this at your own discretion).
- **GOOD MANNERS:** Act overly polite with your family members or roommates. Refer to them as Mr./Ms./Mx., ask for permission to go to the bathroom or eat a snack, etc. Try to do this for at least a few hours.
- **ANNOYING GROUP CHAT:** Start a group chat with your friends, but act like the conversation is just between you and one other person. Ignore messages from people that are not the chosen friend. You may tell your chosen friend about the experiment so that they can play along. Try to do this for an entire day.
- **OFF TOPIC COMMENTS:** On Facebook or Reddit, leave 10-15 comments that are off-topic and not relevant to the statuses or posts which you are commenting on.
- **OVERSHARE:** Pick an acquaintance or family member that you aren't close with. Over a 24-hour period, send them frequent text updates about your life. E.g. "I am watching Netflix," "I really like this show," "I'm going to take a shower now," etc.
- **OVERSHARE ON SOCIALS:** Update your Facebook status, Instagram story, or Twitter 10-15 times in one day, following the same guidelines as mentioned above.
- **TINDER DISASTER:** Match and message at least 10 people. Tell them you have a crush on them and would like to be in a serious relationship with them without having an actual conversation first.
- **INSTAGRAM CATFISH:** Ask a friend if you can use their selfies for an experiment. Over the course of a few days, post at least 5 selfies of another person. Write your captions to suggest that the person is you. Make sure that a significant portion of your followers know both you and this person so that they can pick up on this strange behavior.
- **ZOOM SNACKS:** In a Zoom meeting, leave your mic on while eating a loud snack. Do this for at least 15 minutes. Please ask for permission from the Zoom host (course instructor or your employer) before conducting the experiment.

*If you have an idea for an alternate experiment, please request approval by week 2.

Please remember that this is an experiment, and your goal is to observe people's authentic reactions to your norm-breaking behavior. You should not tell anyone that you are conducting an experiment unless you need their help (e.g. if doing the "Annoying Group Chat" experiment). You may tell people about the experiment after it is complete.

SUBMISSION

Essays should be submitted on Canvas under the "Assignments" tab by July 23 at 11:59pm.

CHECKLIST BEFORE SUBMITTING:

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Define social norms- Describe the paper topic- Write a thesis statement- Underline the thesis statement- 1 paragraph
Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Describe the exact steps you took in order to conduct the experiment- 1 paragraph
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1 paragraph describing people's verbal responses to your behavior- 1 paragraph describing people's nonverbal responses to your behavior- 1 paragraph describing how you felt before, during, and after the experiment
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- At least 3 course concepts- All course concepts are in bold text- Demonstrate clear understanding and expertise of course concepts through your application to this experiment- 3-6 paragraphs
Formatting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 12 pt. Times New Roman font- 1" margins- Double spaced (no additional spaces between paragraphs)- Headers (Introduction, Method, Results, Discussion)- Minimum of 5-full pages, maximum of 7-full pages- In-text citations