

## Soc 101 Practicum 3 Writing Assignment, due 9/27

Conduct an “ethnomethodological” experiment, whereby you break a norm, or interrupt “normal” interaction by engaging in behavior that is out of context given the specific social setting and the role and/or identities of the social actors involved. **WARNING: DO NOT BREAK ANY LAWS, UNIVERSITY RULES, OR REGULATIONS!!! DO NOT PUT YOURSELF OR OTHERS IN DANGER OF ANY EMOTIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, OR PHYSICAL HARM.** Please see some examples of acceptable experiments below. If you have any questions as to what is an acceptable experiment, please contact Professor Lena or Emily.

Here are the rules for the assignment:

1. Consider the experiment a failure if you “break character” (e.g. laugh, etc.).
2. You may not tell the “subject” that you are conducting an experiment.
3. You must sustain the “interruption” for at least two minutes.
4. **YOU MAY NOT BREAK ANY LAWS, UNIVERSITY RULES OR REGULATIONS.**
5. **YOU MAY NOT PUT YOURSELF OR OTHERS IN DANGER OF ANY EMOTIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, OR PHYSICAL HARM.**
6. You must successfully complete the experiment (without violating any of the above rules).

In your short write-up (1-2 pages), **be sure to address each of the following:**

- What norm you are breaking
- How you violated the norm (what you did, where you did it, and who saw you do it)
- Others’ reactions to your behavior (how did they respond—did they stare at you or avoid you?)
- Your own reaction to your behavior (how did you feel, why did you feel that way, and what does that tell you about the internalization of norms?)

Be as specific as possible in your description and **make sure to use concepts from our text and classroom discussions.** All assignments must be typed with double-spacing, 1” margins, and 12 point font.

Examples:

The textbook provides the example of trying to pay more for an item than it is actually worth. For instance, tell a cashier you would like to pay \$2.00 for the \$1.35 soda. Conversely, ask a cashier if you can pay \$1.35 for a \$2.00 soda.

Break a norm in terms of “elevator etiquette”: start talking to a stranger on an elevator as if you’ve known them your whole life, or stand facing the back of the elevator.

Break a norm in terms of “personal distance” (only do this with someone you already know): stand “too close” to the person when they are talking.

Break a norm in terms of appropriate clothing: wear your slippers, a bathrobe, or an evening gown or tuxedo to class.