

PSY383 Group Dynamics Homework Assignment on Violating Norms

This homework assignment should be completed by the second class meeting for Chapter 6, the unit on *Structure*. It will be explained in class the first class meeting of the unit.

- 1) Violate a social norm. Some examples are:
 - a. Clip your toenails while sitting with others in a cafeteria.
 - b. With your hair tousled, ask to borrow a comb from a group of strangers .
 - c. Ask people in a movie line if you could move ahead of them.
 - d. Sit down with 2 to 3 strangers at a four-seat table in a cafeteria or restaurant without talking.

Please feel free to come up with your own social norm to violate rather than selecting from the examples provided above. Students typically are more creative than this list. Obviously, please don't violate a social norm in such a way that it will end up injuring anyone or resulting in a criminal offense. If you're not certain about whether or not the norm you have selected to violate is appropriate, please feel free to contact me for clarification and input. It's acceptable to debrief others in the setting after the "experiment," i.e., to explain your actions to them.

- 2) Write about your experience, describing your norm violation experience and the reactions of others in the setting, and examining your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors before, during, and after the "experiment." This needs to be handed in to me. Failure to hand it in will result in the lowering of your grade for the course by a few points. This assignment can be typed or hand-written. It does not need to be lengthy. No references are needed. APA format is not necessary. You are not being graded on the quality of the written assignment. I just want some verification that you have completed the exercise.