

Dare to Be Different: Out of the Social Norm

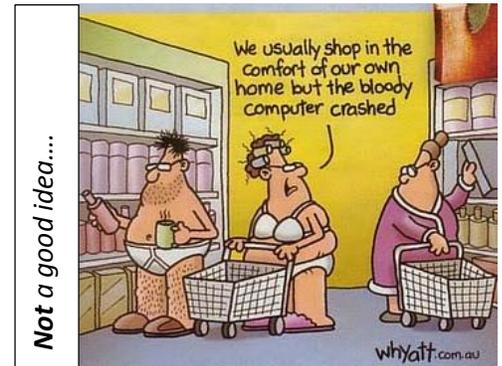
As human beings, we tend to want to conform to those around us. For this activity, you are being asked to try a mild form of “norm violation” - you will come to school or go to a public place (such as the mall) and experience what it is like to dress or behave against the social norm. You must either do something or wear something that is against the social norm or your own norm (if your norm is already against the social norm).

You may not wear or do anything that could offend someone, violate the school dress code, disrupt a teacher’s class, or be considered alarming, obscene, or dangerous!

I trust you to use good judgment. If you are unsure whether your idea is appropriate, please ask! Do not tell your classmates (or anyone else who might be present) what you are doing – this would negate your results.

Some possible ideas:

- Stand up next to your desk to answer questions in class
- Refer to your teachers as ma’am or sir
- Dress “punk” and shop in a “preppy” store, or vice versa
- Stand backwards in the line at the grocery store or cafeteria
- Sit right next to a stranger in the library, even when other seats are available
- Sing or hum loudly for a couple of minutes in a public place
- Stand “too close” to a friend in conversation



As you go through the day, record other people’s reactions to you, and your feelings about those reactions. If you do this exercise with a partner, one of you can be the “norm violator” and your partner can write down the responses of others; then switch places. You will hand in an individual typed or neatly hand-written reflection that details your exercise and connects your experiences to terms, concepts, and big ideas from Chapter 16.

Your reflection should include the following:

- What was your exercise?
- When did it take place?
- Where did it take place?
- How did this exercise violate social norms?
- Why did you choose this exercise?
- What were your observations?
- How did this exercise make you feel?
- What did you learn from this exercise?
- Was it easy to do this exercise? Explain why or why not.
- Connect your experiences to terms, concepts, and big ideas from Unit XIV.

Due Date:

(See the grading rubric on the back of this handout ☺)

Dare to Be Different Reflection Grading Rubric

	4	3	2	1-0
Description of the exercise	Thorough and complete description of the chosen exercise that includes specific examples and details	Complete description of the chosen exercise	Vague and incomplete description of the chosen exercise	Unclear description of the chosen exercise –or- Missing
Explanation as to how the exercise violates norms and why the it was chosen	Thorough and complete explanation of how the exercise violates social &/or personal norms and why the exercise was chosen that includes specific examples and details	Complete explanation of how the exercise violates social &/or personal norms and why the exercise was chosen	Vague and incomplete explanation of how the exercise violates social &/or personal norms and why the exercise was chosen	Unclear explanation of how the exercise violates social &/or personal norms and why the exercise was chosen –or- Missing
Overall experience in conducting the exercise (how did others react, how did it make you feel, what did you learn, etc.)	Thorough and complete explanation of the overall experience of conducting the exercise that includes specific examples and details	Complete explanation of the overall experience of conducting the exercise	Vague and incomplete explanation of the overall experience of conducting the exercise	Unclear explanation of the overall experience of conducting the exercise –or- Missing
Connection to terms, concepts, big ideas from Unit XIV	Connects exercise to multiple terms, concepts, &/or big ideas using specific examples and details	Connects exercise to terms, concepts, &/or big ideas	Connection to terms, concepts, &/or big ideas is vague &/or incomplete	Connection to terms, concepts, &/or big ideas is inaccurate –or- Missing
Total:	Comments:			