

Breaking norms assignment

[Sociology](#)



Usually, the World Trade Centre bound E train on weekdays morning are mostly occupied by whitecollar workers and college students. Generally, working men and women are in their formal attire and students in casual such as jeans, sneakers, baseball hats and etc. The train makes 13 stops in Manhattan and about 10 or more in Queens region. While travelling to their destination people are mostly reading books, newspapers, listening to music, playing games on their phone or tablet, talking to someone they are acquainted with or sit idle maintaining a nonexclusive course to kill time.

So, first, I decided to break the norm of proper dressing by wearing a clumsy outfit which is my bedtime shirt, pajama and an owl face slipper on a weekday morning. In extension, I also had a grunge look with full grown beard and messy hair. I hopped on the train from Lexington Avenue, 53rd street at 7 o'clock in the morning. As I stepped inside, it was quite packed, about a quarter were college students and rest were whitecollar workers in their suits and ties mostly in their mid 30's or more. Quickly found an empty seat right in the heart of that compartment and sat on it.

There were a group ladies in formal attire around their mid 30's sitting right in front of me as one of them was putting makeup and rest were sitting idle; on to my right were 3 gentlemen standing tall in suits and ties assuming to be in their late 40's exchanging headlines on their phones and newspapers, and on to my left were few college students with their headphones on and hooked on to their gadget. In no time, my first objective was accomplished as I could see the woman who was putting make up switched her attention from her tiny circular portable mirror on to my owl faced slippers along which I could notice her brows puckered in frown.

The Other ladies sitting next to her discreetly glanced and quickly looked away. As I looked on to my right purposely attempting to make eye contact, I've noticed the man standing next to me softly shooked his head with great signs of disapproval written all over his face but surprisingly there weren't any effect on those students as they were still listening to their music and playing games on their phone without a single change in their course. Next, I decided to take out an electric trimmer of my pocket along with my phone.

As I turned on the frontfacing camera of my phone to use it as a mirror and started trimming my beard I could see great tension rising in the atmosphere of that compartment. I could hear murmurs, whispers and footsteps of people standing next to me creating distance and disapproving. I also noticed heads shaking; as signs of criticism, disgust and negligence was all over the place. This made me feel very uncomfortable. In their viewpoint my appearance and behavior was disturbing and disrespectful.