

## Commit a Deviant Act - Break a Social Folkway

100 points

In every society there are norms for social behaviors. There are serious norms punishable by legal sanctions and then there are everyday non serious norms referred to as folkways. Folkways are informal social norms or daily expectations for behavior, they are not written down we just learn them in the course of our everyday socialization. Folkways can be seen as the expected customs like covering your mouth when you cough, facing forward and being quiet in an elevator, eating with utensils, or wearing the expected clothing or hairstyle, and other common everyday expectations and behaviors we take for granted. Your assignment is to break an informal social folkway/norm and write up a 2-3 page summary of your deviant activity. In a short “integrated essay” answer the following questions. (Do not simply answer the list of questions.) *If you took photos of your activity you may include images in your essay. Post to blackboard.*



- ☐ What social norm did you break? Explain what you did.
- ☐ How did people react to your actions?
- ☐ Did people sanction you? If so how?
- ☐ Did they support your behavior?
- ☐ How did you feel while you were being deviant?
- ☐ Would you commit the act again?
- ☐ Would you feel better doing this activity in a group? If so why or why not?
- ☐ Why would our society label the act you committed as deviant are there larger social benefits to this label? In other words, if everyone acted the way you did what would be the consequences for the larger society?



### A few things to remember:

- ☐ The act must be current so it has to be something you do for the assignment. Not something you have done in the past.
- ☐ People remember deviance so it's a good idea to debrief folks after your assignment ... let them know what you were doing.
- ☐ Your deviant act can be funny as well as serious. The goal is to monitor peoples' reaction to the simple acts of deviance.

**Assignment Rules: Do not break any laws or rules, which may bring university or community legal sanctions. (Such as tickets or incarceration etc.) No points if this rule is not followed.**

*\*The women in the photo are at Mardi Gras where this body art is accepted. Would this body art be acceptable at the local PTA meeting?*