INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

JOPLIN HIGH SCHOOL

BREACHING PROJECT

Groups will perform a “breaching experiment” in which they break a social norm and record the responses of others. Students are advised to breach a folkway. *The violation* *of a law or more is neither required nor appropriate for this assignment.*

Some suggestions for folkway breaches are: speak to other riders on an elevator, carry a stuffed animal to class, suck your thumb in public, wear mismatched clothes or shoes, pick your nose in public, eat sloppily and without using a napkin, offer to hi-five someone for no reason.

Groups must decide on a breach to be committed and two testable variations. Groups will take careful and detailed notes on the reactions they observe. A minimum of 10 independent observations are required per member of your group. Your group will decide what sociological theories and concepts are appropriate for your analysis and incorporate them into your discussion. Blog entries should address the following issues:

* What was the norm you were trying to test or breach?
* What was your method for breaching the norm? Describe in detail your

experiment design (what you did).

* What did you expect to find?
* What did you actually find? Describe interactions, your feelings, the setting, etc.
* How did peoples' reactions to the breach differ? Be as systematic as you can

about this. Were there differences by race or gender or class or age? How about

social setting or time of day?

* What do your experimental results tell you about the nature of social rule you are

trying to study?

Your blog entry for this week should summarize your methods, hypotheses, findings, and analysis.