

Synthesis Assignment 2:

We are in the process of examining four sociological perspectives. Too often it seems to occur that students believe theory is beyond their reach. However, it is not merely a cerebral exercise left to academics. Instead, it is part of our functional day-to-day. We all build theories. Some are better than others, but it happens, none the less. You just watched the opening scene for the movie "Office Space." Many of us have been in a stressful situation where we're running late and traffic is not cooperating. Some of us may attempt to place our theory building into practice by seeking the lane most likely to move. Alternatively, we may be enjoying our music loudly and grow concerned over the response of others. This concern may be valid or sourced from stereotypes and assumptions made about how we *believe* others will act. The point here is that theory is incredible and we build and contribute to our own theories on life without actually realizing it.

You are to do the following:

1. Choose 2 of the following scenarios and build a workable theory for each scenario.
2. Give explanations as to why you built the theories you did. For example, if you state that you felt people with red hats were most likely to return their shopping carts to the collection area, explain WHY you built your theory the way you did. Is it because people with new hats are more organized? Is it because people with red hats are more noticeable and may not want to draw negative attention to themselves? Your write-up must demonstrate that you put thought into your response.

Scenario 1:

Who is most likely to return their shopping cart to the designated collection area? What circumstances are required? Who is NOT most likely to do this? Does it take a particular kind of person, a particular kind of context, or both?

Scenario 2:

Who is most likely to silently fart in a crowded elevator? Who is NOT most likely to do this? What circumstances are required? Does it take a particular kind of person, a particular kind of context, or both?

Scenario 3:

If you've ever been in an airplane or a movie theater, or even in this class. What types of evaluative observations do you make of persons you would like or not like to sit next to?

Scenario 4:

What intuitive reasoning do you utilize when at a bar or club and you focus on someone as a potential pick-up date?