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## Why I Wear a Suit

People usually have idiosyncracies, details about themselves that distinguish them from others. A lot of these don't do anything to others' opinions, or actually influence them negatively. Some aspects of individuals, however, make a person different from the accepted norm in a good way. I started wearing formal clothing as a challenge to the idea that it is uncool to do so, and it has benefitted me in several ways.

Generally speaking, we as a culture associate the suit with businessmen (and businesswomen.) This gives it a whole set of connotations; people have an image spring to mind every time the word "businessman" is said. On one hand, business is associated with bureaucracy, boredom, dissatisfaction, and of course work. In a more positive respect, though, business is associated with success, money, drive, and power in its more positive connotations. Additionally, suits are often worn as part of a uniform, which also has its own set of connotations: uniforms are boring, and lack individuality, but allow greater unity of image and can imply a sense of dependability or regularity. My goal in wearing a suit was to take advantage of the positive aspects of the businesslike uniform look without evoking the negative aspects, in an attempt to build a personal image.

Originally, I had challenged the idea that suits are bland as a response to an unpleasant situation. I had just made the move to high school, and was getting used to the ins and outs of my dress code. I had become pretty bored with the routine of the days. One Friday, since there was no rule against it, and since I was so bored, I wore a suit to school. The look caught on, and so every Friday thereafter I wore a suit to keep the tradition going. As people got used to it, they took a liking to it, and by the time summer rolled around people were disappointed that I didn't wear suits on Fridays.

People responded surprisingly well to my initial move toward formal clothes. It was

partially as a result of the suits that I got my first nickname, “Crazy John.” Regardless of perspective on whether this nickname is a good thing, it was given with positive intent. As a result of how people responded, and how comfortable I have become with suits, I would absolutely challenge the idea that suits are boring and uncomfortable again.

Suits are one way I differ from an accepted cultural norm. However, regardless of how closely they follow the widely accepted fashion, people always differ from their culture in some ways. If it weren’t for the differences of individuals from the norm, the world would end up a horribly boring place to be.