

### 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 been a benefit to 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" comes up in conversation. On one hand, business is associated with bureaucracy, boredom, dissatisfaction, and of course work. On the positive side, though, business is associated with success, money, drive, and power in its more positive connotations. My goal in wearing a suit was to take advantage of the positive aspects of the businesslike image without evoking the negative aspects, in an attempt to build an image.

Originally, I had challenged the idea that suits are boring as a response to a boring 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, I wore a suit to school. The look caught on, and so every Friday thereafter I wore a suit to keep the tradition going.

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 one's perspective on how positive a thing this nickname is, it was given with endearment. 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 aspect of me that differs from an accepted cultural norm. Really, though, it's best to question any cultural norm if it isn't backed by some reason. In questioning and challenging the things in our life that we accept as fact, we can improve our lives and have a better time of things.