



Everybody Does It... Responsible Behaviour and Choices Assignment

Learning Outcomes

The purpose of this assignment is to encourage you to:

- Understand how everyday actions form social norms.
- Reflect on your own actions and role modeling within the greater community.

Instructions

Please read the following story, *"It's OK, Son, Everybody does it..."* by Jack Griffin. Once you have read the story, please write or record a reflection on the story answering the following questions:

- What were your initial thoughts or observations while reading the story?
- In your opinion, what are the key lessons or takeaways from this story?
- How does the story give insight into making better choices?
- How does it apply to your own incident, and your own life?

Format

Please ensure the reflection you submit is:

- Typed, double spaced in essay format (at least 500 words)
- OR
- Video Response (between 3-4 minutes in length)
- Submission is respectful and reflective in tone

To Submit

Please submit a copy of your assignment to the Community Standards Assistant, communitystandards@uoguelph.ca by **11:59pm** on the due date outlined in your outcome letter.

Student Housing Services is dedicated to upholding confidentiality. Your letter will be reviewed for completion and quality of the submission by a Community Standards Assistant and may be reviewed by a member of the Residence Life Management Team.

If you have any accommodations or require this information in an alternate format, please contact communitystandards@uoquelpk.ca

It's OK, Son, Everybody Does It...

By Jack Griffin

When Johnny was six years old, he was with his father when they were caught speeding. His father handed the officer a twenty dollar bill with his driver's license. "It's OK, son," his father said as they drove off, "everybody does it."

When he was eight, he was present at a family council meeting presided over by Uncle Georgeon the surest mean to shave points off the income tax returns. "It's OK, kid," his Uncle said, "Everybody does it."

When he was twelve, he broke his glasses on the way to school. His Aunt Francine persuaded the insurance company that they had been stolen, and they collected \$75. "It's OK, kid," she said, "Everybody does it."

When he was fifteen, he made right guard on the high school football team. His coach showed him how to block and at the same time grab the opposing end by the shirt so the official couldn't see it. "It's OK, kid," the coach said, "Everybody does it."

When he was eighteen, Johnny and a neighbour applied for a college scholarship. Johnny was a marginal student. His neighbour was in the upper three percent of his class, but he couldn't play right guard. Johnny got the scholarship. "It's OK, son," his father said, "Everybody does it."

When he was nineteen, he was approached by an upperclassman who offered the test answers for

\$50. "It's OK, kid," he said, "Everybody does it." Johnny was caught and sent home in disgrace. "How could you do this to your mother and me?" his father asked. "You never learned anything like this at home".

Blanchard, Kenneth and Peale, Norman Vincent (1988). The Power of Ethical Management, pgs. 23-2. New York: William Morrow