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STIGMA ANALYSIS

(From *Stigma: Essays in Spoiled Identity*, Erving Goffman)

In not more than five typed pages, analyze a stigma with which you have had experience.
Use the outline as an analytic tool.

STIGMA TYPES

- Abominations of the body
- Blemishes of character
- Tribal stigma of race, nation, religion, or ideology

CHARACTERISTICS OF MIXED CONTACTS

- Uncertainty of definitions
- Pressure to perform
- Normal accomplishments as extraordinary
- Minor failings as evidence
- Too nasty/too nice
- Personal boundary violations
- Disclosure etiquette
- Contagion
- Breaking through

RESPONSES TO STIGMA

- Correction
- Compensation
- Passing
- Secondary gains
- Reinterpretation as “blessing”
- Reassessment of “normals”
- Avoidance of mixed contacts
- Missionary work
- Reverse stigma



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