Your assignment is to pick some location or situation in which strangers are put in physical proximity to one another for a period of time. Examples include a bus stop, a table at the library, a train station or airport waiting room, a hospital waiting room, a party, etc.

Observe at your location for at least twenty minutes. Examine ways in which strangers interact with one another. Notice the ways in which they communicate: through words, facial expressions, body postures, and the like. Examine what is communicated, in what situations, with what effect, and by what kinds of people. Examine also the importance of social space and physical space. Pay special attention to:

1. the varieties in all these things and
2. any regular patterns that seem to exist.

Extensively document your field notes. Remember in field or systematic observation, you record everything relevant to your topic, without bias or prejudice. This facet of research is to describe, not interpret.

Then, after observing and documenting your observations without prejudice, analyze your data and draw any possible research conclusions related to your observations, if possible. Remember in research, we are not so concerned about individual performance but patterns of behavior. This facet of research is to interpret and predict.