College Composition- Honors A Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Pet Peeve

**Step 1**: Brainstorm a list of eight to 10 behaviors that you find most irksome. What are your personal “pet peeves”? What makes you jump out of your skin? Be ready to share with the class.

**Step 2**: Choose one item from the compiled class list. Freewrite for five minutes why this behavior annoys you.

**Step 3**: Read “[Complaint Box: Public Grooming](http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/11/06/complaint-box-public-grooming/)” by Lion Calandra about the very public ways in which commuters on public transportation attend to their personal hygiene. After completion, answer the following questions:

1. What do you think about “public grooming”? Is it one of your own “pet peeves,” or do you think it is acceptable? Why?
2. What do you think the author’s tone of voice was when he said “Maybe tomorrow you can shave your legs on the train” to the woman who had just finished flossing her teeth? How can you tell?
3. What connection does the author make between public grooming and modern media, like YouTube and reality television? Do you agree or disagree?
4. Have you ever groomed in public? If so, would you think twice about doing so after reading this essay?

**Step 4**: Get inspired; visit the New York Times “[Complaint Box](http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/category/complaint-box/)” posts including “[Immobile on the Phone](http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/10/16/complaint-box-immobile-on-thephone/),” “[iPod Volume](http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/06/26/complaint-box-ipod-volume/),” or “[Counter Culture](http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/09/18/complaint-box-counter-culture/).” Choose one post and complete the analysis worksheet for it (handout provided in class).

**Step 5**: Time to write: write your own 500-word persuasive and descriptive essay about your own pet peeve inspired by “Complaint Box” series. You may use the one from your earlier freewrite or choose a new one. Be ready to peer conference on Monday with a peer.