

# **A Pattern Language for US Citizens Clearing USA Passport and Customs**

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## **Pattern Writing**

### **A Pattern Language for US Citizens Clearing USA Passport and Customs**

A small subset of the USA population may feel that they are true globe trotters. They feel comfortable traveling internationally and welcome the final comment from a Customs and Border Protection CBP agent when they say “Welcome Home”. However, the majority of USA citizens do not fly frequently internationally. For them, the process upon return of clearing USA Passport and Customs, and being interviewed by a USA CBP agent is potentially intimidating. Yet, it doesn’t need to be. Anyone can learn the tricks of the trade, from those who do fly internationally on a frequent basis, which in turn may ease our own travel worries... and potential delays. For example, if your entry card is not filled-in before you talk to a passport agent, s/he can send you to the back of the line. Or if you bring fruit or meat through customs, you increase the likelihood that all your baggage will be inspected and cause an additional delay. On the other hand, obtaining a Trusted Traveler status can actually speed up the process and allow you to skip the potentially long queues in immigration.

This pattern language contains a set of patterns for US Citizens, applicable when those citizens are clearing USA points of entry, in particular Passport control and Customs at USA Airports. Our goal is to share personal and shared experiences to ease your worries and speed your journey home.

## Patterns

Pattern	Alias	Last Updated	Lead
Answer the Question	Communicating just enough	05/11/09	Marco
Completing Entry Cards	Bringing A Pen	05/11/09	Jeff
Packing for Security	Packing the <u>Kitchen Sink</u>	05/11/09	Robert
Persona non Grata	<u>Return To Sender</u>	05/11/09	Jeff
Suitable/Acceptable Identification	<u>ID Please</u>	05/11/09	Robert
Traveling with Children	<u>Are We There Yet</u>	05/11/09	Marco
Trusted Traveler	<u>Big Brother Knows You</u>	05/11/09	Jeff
The Tired Traveler	Keep Your Wits About You	05/11/09	Marco
What to Wear	<u>Dress For Success</u>	05/11/09	Marco

**Name**

Packing for Security – (aka The Kitchen Sink)

**Context**

Packing for international travel creates special demands.

**Problem**

Dealing with items on certain lists can slow you down dramatically when passing through customs.

**Forces**

People pack necessities and items of convenience to carry with them in anticipation of uncertain or unknown conditions at destinations and along the path of their trip. In traveling abroad, people often obtain additional items of interest increasing the amount of carry-on and checked baggage. This accumulation of items can exacerbate an initial problem of over packing before a trip even begins. It is sometime difficult to minimize what we pack to just what is needed for a trip (for example, when encountering diverse weather from extreme heat to cold). Too much baggage also subjects the traveler to excess baggage charges, and the risk that all baggage will not arrive at the final destination with them. This can be a fine line, since under packing (i.e. having an overnight bag with you when returning from a two week trip) could also lead to added scrutiny.

In using common carriers such as airplanes and cruise ships, security at US customs checkpoints enforces rules and restrictions about what can be brought back into the US upon reentry. Except for the most experienced travelers, it is difficult to avoid lengthy delays and taxes on items incorrectly declared or discovered when attempting to reenter the US through a customs security checkpoint.

"Too Much Baggage" also may slow down the process of clearing a US customs checkpoint and draw the attention of inspectors.

Travelers returning from certain destinations may be subject to a higher level of scrutiny when passing through a US customs checkpoint. Passengers should expect more frequent inspections when traveling from "high-risk" countries, such as those known for drug trafficking.

Care should be taken to declare items above the duty-free allowances. If undeclared items are found during an inspection, the passenger will be subject to additional scrutiny and penalties that result in travel delays now and in the future.

Some violations are documented in a database that may be checked by Customs inspectors when attempting to enter the US on future trips resulting in potentially lengthy delay even when there is no problem with the current packing.

**Solution**

**Comment [r1]:** Although it could be considered a separate force, in this case, it is a force related to packing for security. Failure to comply with rules and restrictions, even unintentionally, can result in future scrutiny as frequently as every time you pass through a customs checkpoint.

**Comment [MAH2]:** While I can see how this can be, a case can also be made how this belongs in the 'Packing' pattern, since it's related. I'm not sure if you would write a new pattern for this? In your first round of comments you had talked about a hierarchy, which is something I've been struggling with, Would this be a sub-pattern?

**Comment [anf3]:** Isn't this a completely separate force?

If you can't come without things that need to be declared, pack items that need to be declared separately. This facilitates any inspection that might occur because of declared items and may get you processed faster.

Meat and fruit products are especially high on the list of prohibited items and should never be packed in carry-on or checked luggage.

Review the US customs policies and documentation requirements before you go on a trip.

Instead of trying to bring back every item from a trip, one way to avoid over packing is to ship items that you will not immediately need ahead of time. All the customs declarations are done at the time of shipping, and having less material on your person when returning through customs and immigration could potentially speed the process along.

### **Rationale**

Pack items for convenience that do not cause unnecessary delay in clearing airport security. Pack questionable, approved items in checked luggage and balance carry-on choices with items that will not be scrutinized by US customs security checkpoints. If questionable items are needed to be carried-on, use "Mitigating Carry-on Issues" to reduce the delay in clearing security

US Customs also chooses a random sample of passengers regardless of where they are arriving from. Passengers should not be surprised, or express irritation, if they are inspected when they pass through customs while traveling from "low-risk" countries.

### **Examples**

Travelling with expensive 'new' items and no receipt may lead customs officials to concluded that the items were purchased overseas and you are trying to avoid paying taxes even though the items were purchased in the U.S. and all taxes have been paid.

Bringing in items from countries that the U.S. has banned economic exchange with (i.e. Cuban Cigars or North Korean kimchee).

### **Resulting Context**

You are returning home from international travel and who have purchased significant items abroad and want to maximize their velocity through customs.

Travelers' wanting to pack lighter also might have the added benefit of not having to wait for luggage.

### **Related Patterns**

Return to Sender, failure to comply with Customs and immigration can result in confiscation of your property or denial of entry.

### **Known Uses**

Travelers who want to avoid enhanced scrutiny at the borders when returning to the U.S.

Travelers' who decide to bring back gifts or items for personal use that would result in a significant (50%) increase in the amount of luggage upon returning.

**Name**

The Tired Traveler (aka, Keep your wits about you)

**Context**

After an international travel experience getting to and from the destination, we approach immigration and customs exhausted, and not thinking clearly.

**Problem**

A long trip can leave one disoriented, tired and confused, which makes it harder to navigate customs and immigration.

**Forces**

Fatigue, Anticipation, and Anxiety influence judgment and perspective in negative ways. This can impact your customs and immigration experience.

It is important to maintain focus and energy and to be aware of our surroundings and the statutory requirements when crossing a border.

Making a mistake at this transition could delay your arrival, costing you precious time and energy that could be spent recovering or reuniting with home life. As a worst case, it could involve entanglements with law enforcement and fines / loss of freedom.

**Solution**

Control your feelings of fatigue and anxiety by concentrating on your surroundings and the task at hand, getting across the border with the least amount of delay or disruption.

Use your travel time to rest, even if you cannot sleep, consider closing your eyes for the last half-hour before disembarking. Learn the tips from experienced travelers and enter the immigration area prepared [completing entry card], and be sure to [answer the question], if you have minors with you, remember [traveling with children] and before beginning your travels [packing for security] should help you smoothly pass through immigration and customs.

**Rationale**

Be prepared, as you will never be at your best after a long international trip and the scrutiny of Homeland Security.

**Examples**

After crossing 16 time zones on a direct flight from Singapore to New York, non-stop, you arrive 2 hours after you left, in relative time. You have spent the 19-hour flight writing a 25 page paper, reading journal articles and taking notes, reading a book and have watched

**Comment [anf4]:** Good scenario, good that it does not interrupt the solution any more :-)

**Comment [MAH5]:** This is about the longest flight I take, unfortunately.

three full length movies. You are in a state of mild gastrointestinal distress and only managed 3 hours sleep. You arrive at Newark International Airport barely able to remember your name, much less what day this is or why you were in Singapore in the first place.

You have made three prior visits to Singapore, which causes the immigration agent to strike up a conversation about your reasons for so much travel to Asia. He also notices that you visited Indonesia and the Philippines on the same sojourn. The computer (according to the agent) is bringing up erroneous information about you that he is trying to confirm. You begin to wonder if this is an intentional attempt to add to your confusion or just an honest mistake. Ten minutes pass and you are still talking to the agent.

Because you were able to focus and **answer the question**, what could have turned into a 1 hour delay is only 20 minutes.

### **Resulting Context**

Getting home sooner by passing smoothly through immigration and customs control.

### **Related Patterns**

Packing for Security, Completing Entry Card, Traveling with Children and Answer the question,

### **Known Uses**

Any international traveler wanting to minimize delays through customs and immigration.

A tired user who wants to focus on the pending task of having to pass through customs and immigration without making a mistake or letting exhaustion rule the process.

**Comment [anf6]:** Please decide on a format and use it stringently.

**Comment [r7]:** Cambria 12 point used throughout. Style matched to other formatting.



**Name**

Answer the question

**Context**

All travelers crossing international borders either alone or in a group are subject to questioning.

Questions may be directed by security personnel, government officials or representatives of the transportation carrier. The questions are not bounded in any way, but can range from the nature of your employment and reasons for travel, to the layout of buildings and bus stops in the neighborhood where you claim to live

**Problem**

Providing concise, accurate and consistent answers when questioned by Customs and Immigration officials at the border is critical. Failure to do so will result in delays due to further scrutiny. It is important to answer questions as broadly as possible, "keep the answers generic" to avoid inconsistencies.

**Forces**

Crossing international borders subjects you to questioning on any topic. Even the most casual comment can be the basis for further questioning, screening and delays.

We are legally compelled to respond to officials when crossing international borders; following this pattern will make crossing smoother.

You have to accept that any time you are asked questions by the officials it is part of a broader security screening. Often, they are simply validating information on your Entry Card.

If traveling with others, questioning can occur separately and then compared by security officials for consistency. Answering inconsistently, incorrectly or with too much detail could lead to travel delays.

**Solution**

Always tell the truth, it is easier to remember. Do not exaggerate or embellish facts in any way. If you do not know the answer to a question, say so.

Answer only the question asked with straightforward statements of fact. If more information is sought, you will be asked another question.

**Rationale**

Providing answers to questions from customs and immigration is a requirement when entering the United States. Even the most casual and friendly of conversations with an

agent is an official act. We might not be aware of it, all our actions are being observed, our conversations monitored and analyzed. Being mindful of this will help you avoid delays.

### **Examples**

Typically, the first question will be to define the nature of your trip. A simple answer of business or pleasure is enough, after all, you have just ticked a box on your entry card with this answer. The question did not ask you for a detailed itinerary; it was a simple question that merits a simple answer.

When returning to the U.S. from abroad, you are asked, “What is your final destination in the U.S.?” Begin with the City. Only offer additional specifics when asked. The official may then enquire about some detail about the location, if they are familiar with it. Pay attention to such questions, the information they are asking you to validate may be incorrect, by design. Something as innocuous as “... Isn’t that the area with the Brutalist First Baptist Church on the NW corner...” could be intentionally wrong to test your knowledge of the area and verify your answer about final destination. If you do not know the answer, say so.

When travelling with a business partner, you pass through immigration separately. The answers you give may be compared for consistency by the officials conducting the interviews.

### **Resulting Context**

When questioned by officials at a border crossing giving too much or confusing information can lead to more intense scrutiny and cause further delays. By providing more information than asked, you might seem too eager to the official, perhaps hinting at a rehearsed answer.

Once questions are satisfactorily answered, the traveler may pass through to the next phase of their journey.

### **Related Patterns**

Completing Entry Cards

### **Known Uses**

A traveler who is being questioned by customs or immigration officials who wants to focus answering only the question at hand, no more and no less.

A traveler who needs to fight exhaustion and the underlying confusing that arises from it.

**Name**

Completing Entry Cards – ( aka Bringing A Pen )

**Context**

Completion of the Declaration Form is required before entering Immigration/ Passport control.

**Problem**

An incomplete or incorrectly filled out declaration form will cause delays.

**Forces**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) requires all individuals/heads-of-household to complete a Declaration Form (6059B) upon entry via Air into USA. These forms are given to you while in the plane.

To complete the form you need to have your Passport (for passport number, issuing authority and expiration date), flight stub (for airline and flight number), and a pen.

**Solution**

The simplest solution is to ensure you have on your person your passport, your flight stub and a pen. However, you can ask your neighbor (nicely) if you could borrow their pen when they are done.

**Rationale**

Border agents will ask you to step out of the line if you show up at their booth without having completed the Declaration Form. Stepping out of the line will put you back at the end of the queue.

**Examples**

You are traveling on Air France flight 001 from Paris to JFK. You are handed the Declaration Form. You complete it, place it with your Passport, and are ready to de-plane upon arrival. You are probably asked (politely) by your neighbor if they can borrow your pen☺

**Resulting Context**

Reduction in stress from having the Declaration Form completed before you arrive, and saving time not having to find a spot to complete the Declaration Form before getting into the Passport control queue.

**Related Patterns**

Suitable/Acceptable Identification, Persona non Grata

**Known Uses**

Entering the U.S. by land, air or sea from abroad.

Travelers needing to fill out paper work for entry into the U.S.

**Name**

Persona non Grata - Return To Sender

**Context**

Many countries have additional requirements beyond a passport for foreign visitors.

**Problem**

When traveling abroad, which other visas and/or documents you must have with you?

**Forces**

Each sovereign country can establish its own rules, regulations and documentation requirements for visiting foreigners. The USA Department of State issues Travel Warnings and limitation for USA Citizens who travel to select countries (e.g. Cuba, Zimbabwe, Haiti).

**Solution**

When traveling outside of frequently visited Western European countries, USA citizens should check either:

- Official US government and foreign government web sites / embassy/consulate for current requirements;
- Secure a trusted international travel agency to help with documents and requirements. When traveling internationally, USA citizens should carefully consider the type of travel status they will be traveling under (Tourist, Business, Diplomatic/Official or Employment/Study travel). Depending on the country, each may carry a separate requirement on passport, visa, vaccinations and position of return tickets)

**Rationale**

Given your country of citizenship, there might be additional requirements when entering the U.S. or any other country. For example, historically Western European countries, and currently E.U. members currently do not require getting a visa ahead of time when visiting the U.S. but there was a brief time in the early 1980's when the U.S. and France were involved in a trade dispute that caused both countries to impose visa requirements on citizen's travelling to and from. Being aware of these requirements will assist in gaining admission into country of travel.

**Examples**

You are traveling on business to UNITED ARAB EMIRATES . Current requirements include; U.S. Passport that is valid 3 months beyond intended stay, tickets and documents for return or onward travel, and visa. Vaccinations are not required. (reference: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1050.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1050.html))

**Resulting Context**

Not finding out at arrival at the departure airport, that the airline will not allow you to board the flight.

Not finding out at the country of arrival, that you are Persona non Grata, and will be returning home on the next flight.

**Rationale**

Admission into country of travel.

**Related Patterns**

How to Behave, Completing Entry Cards, Suitable/Acceptable Identification.

**Known Uses**

Any person travelling to a country with special visa requirements. For example, travel to Turkey on a U.S. passport requires a stamp on your passport.

Any person travelling between countries that don't necessarily have good relations between them, i.e. Israel and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**Name**

Suitable/Acceptable Identification – ID Please

**Context**

All travelers crossing international borders are required to validate their identity. Without a valid Passport or other authorized identification and sometimes an accompanying visa, international travel is not possible.

**Problem**

Failure to present valid identification can result in significant delays or barriers to entry.

**Forces**

Incorrect or expiring identification can result in a significant travel delay for passengers attempting to cross a managed border. Documentation requirements vary by mode of travel and itinerary. Documentation that may have been acceptable in the past may no longer be sufficient due to changes in requirements.

Identification requirements have become more stringent. People planning international travel may not check documentation requirements prior to their trip and may base their expectation on prior experience.

Different modes of travel may have varying validity rules for documentations. A travel document acceptable for one mode of travel may be invalid for another.

Travel on an extended trip may render a valid identification document invalid after a period of time or if the expiration date of the document is near.

Children who previously were not required to have valid identification or certain types of identification, such as passports and visas, are now required to have valid travel documents.

A US passport is required for every US citizen traveling internationally and meets the valid identification requirements. An expired passport is not valid for travel. Some countries require a visa to cross their border.

Passports and visas expire after a prescribed amount of time.

Travel documents expire or are rendered invalid if they expire within a certain time horizon of the document expiration date.

Obtaining or renewing a passport or visa on an expedited basis is expensive and stressful. Many countries require a passport expiration date 90 days beyond the intended exit date of the trip.

Passports for children expire quicker than passports for adults.

Valid passports with fewer than two "four page" visa/stamp pages are not valid for some travel and require passport maintenance to add Passport pages. Adding pages to a valid Passport on an expedited basis is expensive.

Documentation to obtain a passport may not be readily available on short notice. Acceptable documentation includes proof of citizenship, a certified copy of a birth certificate and other personal information. Collecting this documentation takes time, especially if replacements must be requested.

Valid passports require amendments in the event of marriage or divorce.

Different countries have different visa requirements and you must check with the U.S. State Department prior to your travel.

### **Solution**

Check the identification requirements for your mode of travel and border crossings prior to your trip. Maintain your identification in good standing so that it will be available and valid for travel when needed. Be sure to check the expiration date of your acceptable travel identification and make sure sufficient time remains before the documents expire to cover your trip plus the required time buffer mandated for your selected modes of travel or for potential modes of travel should your plans change while on your trip.

Check the expiration dates and number of blank visa/stamp pages on your passport regularly. Maintaining your passport means that you are always ready for international travel. Remember to allow up to eight weeks for passport renewal. If you are using a passport for international travel, check the passport expiration dates or you risk being delayed by realizing the problem too late for remediation.

When purchasing airline tickets online, most major airlines will remind you about your passport requirements.

Check with the embassy's of the countries you intend to visit to determine if visas are needed and the requirements for obtaining them. This information is readily available through websites.

### **Rationale**

Identification rules change to make travel safer for everyone. Most people do not think about identification ahead of time, or if they do, do not check the validity of the documentation ahead of time.



A Passport is not the first thing that most people think about until they need to use one. Since many countries do not require an additional visa for US citizens, it is sometimes a detail that is not considered up front.

### **Examples**

You embarked on a trip via cruise ship to a destination that did not require a passport. A change in itinerary requires that you disembark the ship and fly back to your office. Without proper/valid identification suitable for air travel, you will not be able to board a plane.

You are traveling with a child. Previously, you did not require any identification for the child. You reach the agent to check-in for your flight or cruise only to learn a birth certificate or passport is required. You cannot board without proper documentation.

You are traveling on business to UNITED ARAB EMIRATES . Current requirements include: U.S. Passport that is valid 3 months beyond intended stay, tickets and documents for return or onward travel, and visa. Vaccinations are not required. (reference: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1050.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1050.html))

You are on a business or personal trip. Due to a change in itinerary you need to extend your trip and travel to another destination for an extended stay. Your passport was valid for six-months before you started your voyage but will expire in five months when you try to enter other international destinations. Insufficient time remains for this passport to remain valid for travel resulting in delay or inconvenience to correct. When you try to enter other international destinations. Insufficient time remains for this passport to remain valid for travel resulting in delay or inconvenience to correct.

### **Resulting Context**

People who understand the identification requirements for themselves and members of their traveling party will not have to worry about missing or invalid identification if they check the requirements ahead of time. People who plan for contingencies and changes to itinerary will likely avoid travel delays due to invalid travel documentation.

### **Related Patterns**

Return to sender

### **Known Uses**

Any traveler going through a managed border crossing requires valid identification. This pattern assists travelers with checking their travel identification and helps them to understand if their documentation is valid for an itinerary including potential changes to travel plans while en route to a destination.

**Name**

Traveling with Children – Are We There Yet

**Context**

Even children crossing international borders are required to validate their identity.

**Problem**

How does one avoid unnecessary delays, when traveling with children?

**Forces**

Traveling with children and crossing international borders can be challenging. When returning to the U.S. with a child who does not share your last name or minors who are not related, questions can arise as to your relation to the child, legal status to travel with the minor(s) in question and perhaps even the validity of the minor child's documents. This can create delays in your processing and be a traumatic experience for the child. Children can also be tired and cranky after a long trip and the experience of crossing borders can be both challenging for the parents/guardians and the children.

**Comment [anf8]:** Does this include the children's patience and thus the nerves of the adults (see pattern name)?

**Comment [MAH9]:** Good One, thanks !

**Comment [r10]:** Yes, and the impact varies with the maturity of the children... and adults... 😊

**Solution**

To avoid delays, when traveling with children be sure to have required paperwork and documentation showing they are authorized to travel with you. It is preferable that both parents travel with the minor child.

If only one parent is traveling, or if the children are traveling with other than the legal parent of guardian, it is wise to obtain a notarized affidavit from the non-traveling parent or parents consenting to the travel and granting legal guardianship for the duration of the travel. It is also helpful to carry a birth certificate or adoption decree providing the minors name and the name(s) of the missing parent(s).

Making sure the non-travelling parent(s) are available upon re-entry would also help in case any issues arise.

**Rationale**

Kinship situations are complex in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As the west, and the larger world, grapples with defining who is a family, the need and desire to travel do not mitigate. Single parent, same gender parent, family arrangements where there is one biological parent and a legal guardian are not uncommon. Married couples where each spouse maintains their birth surnames provide added confusion to customs officials since the child might not share the current custodial parents surname.

These shifting family arrangements have increased the need to prepare for border crossings with minor children.

**Examples**

You invite your nieces to a vacation in Canada and discover when trying to re-enter the U.S. that you cannot verify your relation to the minors, nor do you have documentation from the parents. Immigration prevents you from re-entering the United States until you can provide proof of your relationship to the minors and parental consent/authorization to take them outside the United States.

Your spouse needs to stay outside the U.S. for business while you need to return to the U.S. with your daughter. Your daughter does not share the same surname and you have no collaborating proof of your relationship. U.S. Immigration delays your re-entry.

**Resulting Context**

Understanding the identification, documentation (proof of parental or legal guardianship rights) will make the transition across borders with minor children faster.

**Related Patterns**

Suitable/Acceptable identification.

**Known Uses**

Any person traveling with children crossing into the U.S.

**Name**

Trusted Traveler – Big Brother Knows You

**Context**

Even individuals traveling to/from Canada or Mexico and USA via Air, Land or Sea must carry a passport.

**Problem**

Individuals who travel frequently between USA, Canada and Mexico are often delayed by unpredictable board crossing delays, whether it is at airports, driving their vehicles or via sea.

**Forces**

Effective 2008, all individuals traveling to/from Canada and USA via Air are required to have a passport, or secure travel document (NEXUS or FAST card). This is a Canadian – U.S. program designed to let pre-screened travelers cross the border quickly. It only works at Canadian – U.S. border crossings. A state issued driver's license is not valid when traveling via air.

Also effective 2008, all individuals (over 18 years of age) traveling to/from Canada and USA via Land or Sea must provide identification that proves identity and citizenship (e.g. state issued driver's license plus proof of citizenship (birth or naturalization certificate) or a passport). Minors (under 18 years of age) must have proof of citizenship or passport. The same regulations are expected to be implemented for travelers entering the country by land or sea as of January, 2008. Children traveling with friends, a single parent or other family members, must also have a notarized letter giving permission for that child to cross the border.

**Solution**

For USA citizens, the Customs and Border Protection has implemented a "Trusted Traveler Programs" for low risk travelers, that includes expedited passport clearance through dedicated queues and kiosks machines.

For travel between USA and Canada, both USA and Canada citizens can obtain a NEXUS card.

For travel between USA and Mexico, a SENTRI card can be obtained.

For commercial drivers, a Fast Driver Program card can be obtained.

And for other international locations, a new Global Entry Program is being put in place.

**Rationale**

There are 14 border crossing that offer NEXUS (including all major Canada airports). New locations have recently been opened at Woodstock in New Brunswick, Emerson in

**Comment [anf11]:** Is this on top of nexus? Is Nexus the context then and this is the solution? Or is Nexus the solution? Then you cannot mention it in the forces.

**Comment [MAH12]:** It's getting a little complex. You have NEXUS and SENTRI as two "Trusted Traveler" Programs, now New York State is offering an "Enhanced Drivers License" as part of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative which also allows fast access. I use the term here generically.

Manitoba, and Sault Ste. Marie in Ontario.

### Examples

You fly from NYC to Montreal. Upon arrival you go directly to a Kiosks machine, it scans your eye, prints a card and you by-pass passport control and go directly to customs  
You drive from directly from NYC to Canada, upon arrival at the border you enter the dedicated NEXUS/FAST lane, show you NEXUS card, and drive through.

(Reference: [http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/trusted\\_traveler/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/trusted_traveler/))

### Resulting Context

Reduced wait times when crossing Canada/Mexico and USA borders.  
Dedicated lanes (land & Sea) & kiosks (Air) for individuals traveling to/from Canada and USA with limited to no customs & immigration questioning.  
May be use instead of a passport for flights to/from Canada and USA.  
May be utilized when entering Canada via Air from anywhere in the world.  
Single Canada and USA harmonized program. Single Mexico and USA program, New international program.

### Related Patterns

Suitable/Acceptable Identification

### Known Uses

The NEXUS program was established in 2002, to speed up border crossing for USA and Canada citizens. Individuals are pre-approved, low-risk travelers who are citizens or permanent residents of either Canada or the United States. There are also programs in other countries and some major airlines that have programs with the same intention.

The SENTRI system for low risk travelers. SENTRI stands for Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection.

**Comment [anf13]:** Why not mention this as an explanation at first occurrence?

**Comment [MAH14R13]:** Not sure what you mean here ?

## Name

What to Wear - The Dress for Success

## Context

International travelers often dress for comfort.

## Problem

Wearing inappropriate clothing or symbols can lead to excessive delays and scrutiny.

## Forces

Security screening is typically performed before boarding, when entering the 'secure' part of an airport, but is not limited to only this area. Security screening is largely homogenous around the globe. You can be screened multiple times when boarding and again on disembarking from the aircraft. You can also be 'randomly' selected for more in depth screening and there is no way to predict this. Often security personnel are trained to use 'profiles' to decide whom to screen.

One's choice of clothing is driven by many factors, peer and advertising pressures, ethnic and religious constraints, physical characteristics, weather conditions at both the source and destination locales and personal comfort.

Given these constraints, people often dress in ways that might increase their delays at security checkpoints. In addition, what you carry in your pockets effects the ease in which you are processed through security.

## Solution

Review the US Customs and Department of Homeland Security guidelines on personal dress prior to your trip. In addition, there are some types of dress which will increase the likelihood of added security, although other constraints, such as religious beliefs, will effect your decision. Men and women who adhere to any of the variants of the Islamic dress code, also referred to as the Hijab, will in all likelihood increase their chances of increased screening. In these cases, religious observance mandates dress and there is no solution.

Otherwise, here are some tips. Avoid extraneous items of clothing or ornamentation:

- Heavy jewelry
- Clothing with a lot of metal
- Metal hair decorations
- Belt Buckles
- Metal in shoes, underwear
- Body piercings
- Loose change, keys, phones ...

In addition, wear slip on shoes. Try not to wear loose or oversized clothing, which can hide or obscure items being carried underneath.

**Comment [anf15]:** They tell you how to avoid them?

**Comment [MAH16R15]:** No, they provide very general guidelines. The TSA is not allowed to comment on religious dress but provide guidance on religious garments and head coverings, where if followed can make things faster.

Have your passport or other valid picture ID available and with you at all time when going through security.

**Rationale**

Appropriate attire and personal items will make your processing through security a smoother and faster experience. It will also help, but not eliminate, the possibility of further more in-depth screening.

**Examples**

Understand the departing and receiving country's rules for what personal items are acceptable to bring with you before returning to the U.S. For example, small pocket screwdrivers, like the kind given out in computer shows, are confiscated as potential weapons. Having one on you will also motivate more in depth screening.

Traveling with items like a parachute as carryon would not speed your trip through security. Having a passport with visa stamps in Persian or Arabic will also slow down your passage through security.

Religious dress such the Islamic Hijab or dress other similar code, could target you because of your background, although it is the policy of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security not to profile based on a protected category. The Islamic dress code for women contains proscriptions for loose outer garments and masking ones face, this will increase the chances for added screening.

**Resulting Context**

People who understand the security restrictions for international travel.

**Related Patterns****Known Uses**

Travelers returning to the U.S. wanting to avoid delays and extra scrutiny due to the clothing they are wearing.

Travelers wanting to attract minimal attention