

## Heterosexual Privilege Checklist

On a daily basis...

- € I can be pretty sure that my roommates, classmates, and colleagues will be comfortable with my sexual orientation.
- € If I pick up a magazine, watch TV, or play music, I can be certain my sexual orientation will be represented.
- € When I talk about my sexuality (such as in a joke or talking about my relationships), I will not be accused of pushing my sexual orientation onto others.
- € I do not have to fear that if my family or friends find out about my sexual orientation there will be economic, emotional, physical or psychological consequences.
- € I did not grow up with games that attack my sexual orientation (i.e., fag tag or smear the queer).
- € I can go home from most meetings, classes, and conversations without feeling excluded, fearful, attacked, isolated, outnumbered, unheard, held at a distance, stereotyped or feared because of my sexual orientation.
- € I am never asked to speak for everyone who is of my sexual orientation.
- € I can be sure that my classes will require curricular materials that testify to the existence of people with my sexual orientation.
- € People don't ask why I made my choice of sexual orientation.
- € People don't ask why I made my choice to be public about my sexual orientation.
- € I do not have to fear revealing my sexual orientation to friends or family. It's assumed.
- € My sexual orientation was never associated with a closet.
- € I don't have to defend my sexual orientation.
- € I can easily find a religious community that will not exclude me for being my sexual orientation.
- € I am guaranteed to find sex education literature for couples with my sexual orientation.
- € I have no need to qualify my sexual orientation identity.
- € My masculinity/femininity is not challenged because of my sexual orientation.
- € I am not identified by my sexual orientation.
- € I can be sure that if I need legal or medical help my sexual orientation will not work against me.
- € If my day, week, or year is going badly, I need not ask of each negative episode or situation whether it has sexual orientation overtones.

- € Whether I rent or I go to a movie theater, I can be sure I will not have trouble finding my sexual orientation represented.
- € I am guaranteed to find people of my sexual orientation represented in the UW-Eau Claire curriculum, faculty, and administration.
- € I can walk in public with my significant other and not have people double-take or stare.
- € I can choose to not think politically about my sexual orientation.
- € I do not have to worry about telling my roommate about my sexuality.
- € I can remain oblivious of the language and culture of LGBT folk without feeling in my culture any penalty for such oblivion.
- € I can go for months without being identified by my sexual orientation.
- € I'm not grouped because of my sexual orientation.
- € My individual behavior does not reflect on people who identify with my sexual orientation.
- € In everyday conversation, the language my friends and I use generally assumes my sexual orientation. For example, sex inappropriately is referring to only heterosexual sex or family meaning heterosexual relationships with kids.
- € People do not assume I am experienced in sex or that I even have it merely because of my sexual orientation.
- € I can kiss a person of the opposite gender without being watched and stared at.
- € People can use terms that describe my sexual orientation and mean positive things (i.e., "straight as an arrow", "standing up straight" or "straightened out") instead of demeaning terms (i.e., "that's gay" or being "queer").
- € I am not asked to think about why I am my sexual orientation.
- € I can be open about my sexual orientation without worrying about my job.

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This list is based on Peggy McIntosh's article on white privilege. These dynamics are but a few examples of the privilege afforded to heterosexual people. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer-identified folk have a range of different experiences, but cannot count on most of these conditions in their lives.