

A Look at Privilege Application Activity

PRIVILEGE is defined as unconscious and unearned power and advantage based on cultural group membership.

Instructions: Read the snippets of different types of privilege and check ☐ which applies to you personally. Total the number of checks ☐ you made.

RACE PRIVILEGE

- ☐ When I use credit cards or checks for a face- to face transaction I don't have to wonder whether someone will challenge my financial reliability.
- ☐ I am never asked to speak for all the people of my group.
- ☐ I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or closely watched by store employees.
- ☐ Whenever I have applied for a job, the person in power was of the same race.
- ☐ When I walk down the street at night, I will not be perceived as a threat.

NATIONALITY

- ☐ People do not assume I am poor because of my group.
- ☐ Schools in my community teach about my group and present it in positive ways throughout the year.
- ☐ When I apply for jobs, my legal right to work probably will not be questioned.
- ☐ My passport allows me to travel around many parts of the world, and I generally have little concern about visa application processes when traveling.
- ☐ I can vote and access public services in the country where I was born or have been naturalized.

CLASS

- ☐ The neighborhood I live in is relatively free of obvious drug use, prostitution, and violent crime.
- ☐ I have never been homeless or evicted from my place of living.
- ☐ I have a savings account with at least one month's rent and bills set aside in case of an emergency.
- ☐ I am free of the burden of debt.
- ☐ I do not have to shop around for the best buy or wait for sales.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

- ☐ I can move about in public without fear of being harassed or physically attacked because of my group affiliation.
- ☐ If I want to, I can easily find a religious community that will not exclude me due to my group identification.
- ☐ I can go months without me or anyone else referring explicitly to my group.
- ☐ I generally feel safe hiking alone in the woods, or when holding hands with someone I am dating.
- ☐ No one questions the "normality" of my sexuality or believes it is just a phase or was "caused" by psychological trauma, sin, or abuse.

RELIGION

- ☐ I can be sure to hear music on the radio and watch specials on television that celebrate the holidays of my group.
- ☐ My religious views are reflected by the majority of government officials and political candidates.
- ☐ I do not need to worry about the ramifications of disclosing my group affiliation to others.
- ☐ I can expect to have off from work to celebrate religious holidays.
- ☐ I can worship freely without fear of violence or threats.

ABILITY

- ☐ I can assume that I will easily have access to any building.
- ☐ I can do well in challenging situations without being told what an inspiration I must be to other people of my group.
- ☐ I can hear what's going on around me without using an assistive device.
- ☐ I can be reasonably sure that my ability level will not discourage employers from hiring me.
- ☐ I do not have to fear that important decisions about my life will be made by others who are considered more qualified based on their ability status.

GENDER

- ☐ If I have children and a successful career, few people will ask me how I balance my professional and private lives.
- ☐ I do not have to think about the message my wardrobe sends about my sexual availability.
- ☐ In general, I am not under much pressure to be thin or to worry about how people will respond to me if I'm overweight.
- ☐ I can use public bathrooms without fear of verbal abuse, physical intimidation, or arrest.
- ☐ I am able to assume that everyone that I encounter will understand my identity, and not think I am confused, misled, or hell-bound when I reveal it to them.

BODY SIZE

- ☐ I am not assumed to be unhealthy just based on my size.
- ☐ I can assume to find my clothing size sold locally.
- ☐ When I am seated in an airplane, the seat belt closes easily.
- ☐ I don't receive suggestions from friends or family to join a weight loss program or to exercise more.
- ☐ I am not assumed to be younger than I am, such as in high school, because of my height.