

# 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.