

Privilege Points Questionnaire Benefits and Facilitation

Benefits:

1. Uses concrete examples and an objective scoring system to allow participants to reflect on ways that race affords privilege to some and not to others.
2. Questionnaire can be facilitated so that participants can keep their answers confidential, but still share their experience and resulting thoughts.

Time Required: 15-20 minutes

Ideal Group Size: Any

Support Materials: Pens, Copy of Questionnaire and Scoring Sheet for each participant, Copy of Peggy McIntosh essay, *“White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack.”*

Recommended Lead-in: One aspect of oppression that helps maintain it is the granting of privileges that may be both unearned and/or assumed. People in the one-up position, regardless of whether they have asked for these privileges or not, benefit from privilege borne out of oppression, and may not even recognize privileges. Take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire to see if you benefit from oppression.

Key Instructions:

1. Pass out questionnaire and scoring sheet.
2. Give participants about 10 minutes to complete and score their questionnaires.
3. Ask participants to comment on things that came up for them during the quiz.

Key Points:

- Privilege based on oppression is unearned and not requested, but won anyway.
- People with privilege are often so used to it, that they don't even recognize that it is truly a privilege.
- Although unearned, when benefits based on privilege are removed, people with privilege often feel that something unjust has occurred and may become quite angry, defensive, protective, etc.
- Unlearning oppression means that we have to understand where we get unearned privileges.
- It also means that we have to remember that privileges are not a “given.”

Privilege Points Questions

Use a blank piece of paper to score yourself based on the points gains or losses below.

1. Add three points if you can do well in a situation and not be called a credit to your race. If that could very well happen to you add one.
2. Add one if your ancestors were forced to come to the U.S. or forced to relocate from their historical lands in the U.S., add three if that did not happen to your ancestors.
3. Add three if in most cases when you ask to speak with the person in charge you will be facing a person of your race, add one if in most cases you would not be facing a person of your race.
4. Add three points, if when you learned about the history of this country and of civilization in general your racial group was primarily represented, if not add one point.
5. Add one point if English is not your first language, add three points if it is.
6. Add three points if you can be pretty sure you will not be hassled by store security while shopping because of your race, add one point if you can't be sure.
7. Add three points if when you use checks, credit cards or cash, you can count on your skin color not to work against the appearance of financial reliability, add one point if you can not count on that.
8. Add one point if in a work situation you were the lead of a project team and going to meet with a client who didn't know you, and the client might assume that colleagues who have come along with you, whom you actually supervise, are in charge instead of you, because of your race, add three points if your race would not be likely to cause this assumption.
9. Add three points if a traffic cop pulls you over you can be pretty sure you weren't singled out because of your race, add one point if you can't be sure you haven't been singled out because of race.
10. Add three points if you can take a job with an affirmative action employer without having co-workers on the job suspect that you are unqualified and got the job because of your race, add one point if some co-workers are likely to think that.

Scoring

- 10-15 In U. S. society many obstacles will be put in place that will interfere with you getting the things required to have what the society considers a good life, simply because of your race.
- 16-20 In U. S. society some obstacles will be put in place that will interfere with you getting the things required to have what the society considers a good life, simply because of your race.
- 21-25 In U. S. society some resources will be offered to you that support you to get the things required to have what the society considers a good life, simply because of your race.
- 26-30 In U. S. society many resources will be offered to you, whether or not you want them or ask for them, that will support you to get the things required to have what the society considers a good life, simply because of your race.