

Privilege

This packet includes measures of privilege that certain people have due to their membership in a specific group. Privilege is....

"...unearned assets that I can count on cashing in each day, but about which I was 'meant' to remain oblivious... like an invisible weightless knapsack of special provisions, maps, passports, codebooks, visas, clothes, tools and blank checks." -- Peggy McIntosh

Male Privilege, or because I'm not a Woman

CAREER: As a man, my odds of being hired for a job, when competing against female applicants, are typically skewed in my favor. The more prestigious the job, the larger the odds are I will be hired over a female. I can be confident that my co-workers won't think I got my job because I am a man, even though that might be true. If I am never promoted, it's not because I am a man. If I fail in my job or career, I can feel sure this won't be seen as a mark against all men's capabilities. The odds of my encountering sexual harassment on the job are low. The decision to hire me will never be based on assumptions about whether or not I might choose to have a family sometime soon. If I do the same task as a woman, and if the measurement is at all subjective, chances are people will think I did a better job.

SAFETY: As a man, my odds of being sexually assaulted are much, much lower. I am not taught to fear walking alone after dark in average public spaces. I can ask for legal protection from violence that happens mostly to men without being seen as a special interest, since that kind of violence is called "crime" and is a general social concern. (Explanation: Violence that happens mostly to women is usually called "domestic violence" or "acquaintance rape," and is seen as a special interest issue.)

CHILD-REARING: As a man, if I choose not to have children, my masculinity will not be called into question. If I have children but do not provide primary care for them, my masculinity will not be called into question. If I have children and provide primary care for them, I'll be praised for extraordinary parenting if I'm even marginally competent. If I have children and pursue a career, no one will think I'm selfish for not staying at home. If I have a wife or girlfriend, chances are we'll divide up household chores so that she does most of the work, and in particular the most repetitive and unrewarding tasks. If I have children with a wife or girlfriend, chances are she'll do most of the childrearing- in particular the most dirty, repetitive and unrewarding parts of childrearing. If I have children with a wife or girlfriend, and it turns out that one of us needs to make career sacrifices to raise the kids, chances are we'll both assume the career sacrificed should be hers.

POLITICS: As a man, if I seek political office, my relationship with my children, or who I hire to take care of them, will probably not be scrutinized by the press. Chances are my elected representatives are mostly people of my own gender. The more prestigious and powerful the elected position, the more likely this is to be true.

CHILDHOOD: As a boy, chances are I was encouraged to be more active and outgoing than my sisters and female friends. I could choose from an almost infinite variety of children's media featuring positive, active, non-stereotyped heroes of boys and men. I never had to look for it; male heroes were the default.

1. As a man, if I'm careless with my financial affairs it won't be attributed to my gender. If I'm careless with my driving it won't be attributed to my gender.
2. As a man, if I have sex with a lot of people, it won't make me an object of contempt or derision.
3. As a man, it is possible for me to choose clothing that doesn't send any particular message to the world. If I so choose, my wardrobe and grooming are relatively cheap and consume little time.
4. As a man, if I buy a new car, chances are I'll be offered a better price than a woman buying the same car. The salesperson will assume that I am knowledgeable about automobiles.
5. As a man, I am not expected to spend my entire life 20-40 pounds underweight. If I'm not conventionally attractive, the disadvantages are smaller.
6. As a man, I can be assertive with no fear of being called a bitch or other derogatory names. In fact, when I am assertive, it is seen as a sign of strength.
7. As a man, my ability to serve in the military, make important decisions, or be a leader will never be questioned in relation to my hormones.
8. As a man, I will never be expected to change my name upon marriage. I will not be questioned if I don't change my name.
9. Most major religions assert that I should be the head of my household, while my wife and children should be subservient to me.
10. As a man (and if I am straight), magazines, billboards, television, movies, pornography are filled with images of scantily-clad women intended to appeal to me sexually. While such images of men do exist, they are much rarer.
11. As a man, I can turn on the television or glance at the front page of the newspaper and see people of my own gender widely represented, every day, without exception.
12. As a man, I have the privilege of being unaware of my male privilege.

Adapted from B. Deutsch: The Male Privilege Checklist Deutsch borrows heavily from Peggy McIntosh: White Privilege and Male Privilege

Race Privilege, or Because I am White

1. As a white person, I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed.
2. As a white person, I can turn on the television or open to the front page of the paper and see people of my race widely represented.
3. As a white person, when I am told about our national heritage or about "civilization," I am shown that people of my race made it what it is. As a white person, I can be sure that my children will be given curricular materials that testify to the existence and contributions their race. History books primarily reflect the experiences of my ancestors.
4. As a white person, I can be pretty sure renting or purchasing housing in an area I can afford and in an area where I would want to live.
5. As a white person, whether I use checks, credit cards, or cash, my financial reliability will not be determined based on my race and/or appearance.
6. As a white person, I can do well in a challenging situation without being called a credit to my race. I can swear, be loud, or dress in second hand clothes, or not answer letters, without having people attribute these choices to the bad morals, poverty, or the illiteracy of my race.
7. As a white person, if I have a nice vehicle, people do not suspect that I might be a drug dealer.
8. As a white person, I am never asked to speak for all the people of my racial group. When teachers and other classmates talk about whiteness in class, they don't glance at me to see how I am responding.
9. As a white person, I can remain oblivious of the language and customs of persons of color who constitute the world's majority.
10. As a white person, I can be sure that if I need legal or medical help, my race will not work against me.
11. As a white person, I can take a job with an affirmative action employer without having coworkers on the job suspect that I got it because of race.
12. As a white person, I do not have to educate my children to be aware of systemic racism for their own daily physical protection. I can be pretty sure that my children's teachers and employers will support them; my chief worries about them do not concern others' attitudes toward their race.
13. As a white person, I can think over many options, social, political, imaginative or professional, without asking whether a person of my race would be accepted or allowed to do what I want to do.
14. As a white person, I can choose blemish cover or bandages in flesh color and have them more or less match my skin.
15. As a white person, my hair care products are not located in the 'ethnic' hair care section.

16. As a white person, I can be pretty sure of finding people who would be willing to talk with me and advise me about my next steps, personally, academically, and professionally. These relationships will open many doors for me.

17. As a white person, I can be late to a meeting without having the lateness reflect on my race.

18. As a white person, if a traffic cop pulls me over or if the IRS audits my tax return, I can be sure I haven't been singled out because of my race.

19. As a white person, I am not made acutely aware that my shape, bearing or body odor will be taken as a reflection on my race.

20. As a white person, I can worry about racism without being seen as self-interested or self-seeking.

21. As a white person, I can choose public accommodation without fearing that people of my race cannot get in or will be mistreated in the places I have chosen.

22. As a white person, I can criticize our government and talk about how much I fear its policies and behavior without being seen as unpatriotic or an outsider.

23. As a white person, if I state there is a racial issue at hand, or there isn't a racial issue at hand, my race will lend me more credibility for either position than a person of color will have.

24. As a white person (and regardless of whether I actually committed a crime) I am less likely to be convicted and sentenced to lengthy prison terms. People do not associate my race with criminality or violence.

--Adapted from Peggy McIntosh: White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack

Heterosexual Privilege, or Because I am Straight

1. As a straight person, everyone accepts that being heterosexual is only one part of who I am. I am not identified solely—politically, socially, economically or otherwise—by my sexual orientation.

2. As a straight person, I don't have to hide my sexual orientation. I do not have to fear that if my family, friends or coworkers find out about my sexual orientation, I could have damaging emotional, physical, psychological, spiritual or economic consequences.

3. As a straight person, I won't be fired or denied housing or health care because of my sexual orientation. My sexual orientation is not used to exclude me from any profession or organization.

4. As a straight person, I am not accused of being deviant, warped, perverted or psychologically confused because of my sexual orientation. People never equate heterosexuality with pedophilia.

5. As a straight person, people don't ask me when I became a heterosexual. People don't ask me why I chose my sexual orientation, and they certainly don't ask me why I chose to be open or not open about it.
6. As a straight person, I can easily find a faith community that will not exclude me for being heterosexual, tell me I'm a sinner because of who I am, or try to convert me to being gay, lesbian, or bisexual.
7. As a straight person, it's easy to find magazines or books and movies that reflect me and my experiences as a heterosexual. I am guaranteed to find my sexual orientation widely and accurately represented.
8. As a straight person, my masculinity or femininity is not challenged or questioned because of my sexual orientation.
9. As a straight person, when I talk about my heterosexuality or my partner in casual conversation, I will not be accused of pushing my sexual orientation onto others.
10. As a straight person, I am guaranteed to find people of my sexual orientation represented in my college curriculum, faculty, administration and alumni.
11. My sexual orientation is so widely represented in advertising that "straightness" sells everything from toothbrushes to detergent to sports equipment.
12. As a straight person, I can walk in public holding my partner's hand and not have people stare, snicker -- or worse.
13. As a straight person, my individual behavior does not reflect all heterosexuals, just me.
14. As a straight person, in everyday conversation, the language used assumes my sexual orientation. That is, "sex" refers to heterosexual sex; "family" refers to one man, one woman and their children.
15. As a straight person, I did not grow up with games that ridiculed my sexual orientation (e.g., "fag tag," or "smear the queer").
16. As a straight person, people don't use my sexual orientation as an insult. My sexual orientation is not used as a synonym for "bad" or "stupid." Some people use my sexual orientation to indicate that they are okay, as in: "Does anyone need anything here? "Nah, I'm straight."
17. As a straight person, I don't have to defend my sexual orientation. I don't have to educate people about my sexuality. No one asks me how I have sex or who the man is.
18. As a straight person, I am seen as normal.
19. As a straight person, I can marry anywhere in the U.S. I have over 1,400 federal benefits because of my ability to marry. By marrying, I have access to inheritance laws, hospitalization policies, insurance

coverage, second-parent adoption, joint tax status that financially benefit me and my family. If my partner is not a U.S. citizen, I can marry them and they can become citizens.

20. As a straight person, if my relationship is short-lived, people don't assume it's because people of my sexual orientation just can't stay monogamous.

21. As a straight person, no one (inaccurately) equates my sexual orientation with HIV/AIDS.

22. As a straight person, I'm never asked why I hate people of my same-gender.

23. As a straight person, I am never asked if I have just tried sex with someone of my same gender, just to see if I might like it. Further, I'm never told that I just haven't found the right same-sex partner.

24. I'm never asked what happened to 'make me this way,' with the assumption being that I have been sexually or physically abused or assaulted.

25. I can adopt children in all fifty states of the U.S. I am never asked to adopt my own child, as many same-sex non-biological parents must.

26. I am not repeatedly placed in a position where I have to "come out" as a heterosexual person. People just assume I am heterosexual.

---Adapted from Chris McCall: A Straight Privilege, Gay Reality

Citizenship Privilege, or because I am not an Immigrant

Please note: There are a lot of ways to have citizenship privilege, and there are a lot of layers of citizenship privilege. Folks who are native born citizens have privileges over people who are naturalized citizens. Folks who are not citizens but have legal status in this country have privileges over people who are undocumented. These citizenship privileges speak to the experiences of immigrants, both with legal status and undocumented.

1. Because I am a citizen and have legal status, if I want to get a driver's license, it's a simple matter of bringing along my birth certificate, Social Security card and insurance information and taking the test. There's no need to worry about whether I have the proper documents to get a driver's license.

2. Because I am a citizen and have legal status, if I apply for a job, I do not have to worry about what to write under "Social Security Number."

3. Because I am a citizen and have legal status, when Social Security and Medicare are taken out of my paycheck, I have a reasonable hope that someday either I or my dependents will receive the benefit of those taxes.

4. Because I am a citizen, no one has this (false!) belief that I don't pay taxes.

5. Because I am a citizen, I am never called an “illegal” or worse, an “alien.”
6. Because I am a citizen and have legal status, I can go in any bank and open up a checking account.
7. Because I am a citizen, if a police officer pulls me over, I can be sure I haven’t been singled out because of my immigration status.
8. Because I am a citizen and have legal status, I am not worried on a daily basis about being “discovered” and being deported along with my family.
9. Because I am a citizen who looks like an “American,” I do not carry my documentation around with me at all times in case I am pulled over and asked to once again prove that I have legal status in the country.
10. Because I am a citizen and I am fluent in English, people assume that I am as intelligent as they are because I know English. No one speaks loudly to me thinking that I am deaf because I am not fluent. No one thinks that I have sub-standard intelligence because of my accent.
11. Because I am a citizen, I can be reasonably sure that if I need legal or medical advice or help, my citizenship status will not be a consideration. No one will refuse to treat me at the emergency room or doctor’s office.
12. Because I am a citizen, I can apply for a passport that will allow me to travel back and forth to most countries in the world. Because I am a citizen and have legal status, I can travel outside the United States to see family and friends whom are ill. I can attend their funerals. I do not have to worry about being turned away or deported when I return to the United States.
13. Because I am a citizen, I can vote and consider running for political office.
14. Because I am a citizen and I am fluent in English, no one ever hears me speak another language and tell me that if I am in America, I should learn English. I can always convey my deepest emotions, my medical needs, and my beliefs and opinions with ease because I share a common language. No one ever laughs at me or criticizes me because I cannot fully express myself in English. I am not asked to “say something in your language” as if it were a circus trick.
15. Because I am a citizen and was born in the U.S., I have never been asked if I am happy to be in America where everything is better.
16. Because I am a citizen and have legal status, I or a member of my family can apply for scholarship aid to institutions of higher education and expect to compete on level ground with other U.S. citizens.
17. Because I am a citizen, when people think “American,” they think about people who look like me.
18. Because I am a citizen, I am never told to “go back where I came from” (unless of course it is assumed I am not a citizen because I don’t look like an “American.”)

19. Because I am a citizen, I am not required to receive vaccinations that the rest of the population is not required to in order to gain legal status or citizenship.
20. Because I am a citizen, I do not have to spend thousands of dollars on vaccinations, legal fees and government processing fees to remain legal in the country or become a citizen.
21. Because I am a citizen, I have never risked my life trying to cross the US/Mexico border wall in order to feed my family.
22. Because I am citizen, elected officials do not refer to me as animals or suggest the use of electric fences to contain me or electric prod sticks to harm me.
23. Because I am a citizen, I have never been held in a deportation prison awaiting trial for the “crime” of not having legal papers.
24. Because I am a citizen, people do not equate me as someone who steals jobs from other people.
25. Because I am a citizen, I can get in-state rates and scholarships to go to college. A nine-digit number (my Social Security number) gives me advantages not enjoyed by many immigrant college students who are undocumented.

--Adapted from North Carolina Council of Churches (www.nccouncilofchurches.org)

Class Privilege, or Because I am Wealthy

1. Because I am wealthy, I can manage to know only people of similar class background by exclusively frequenting places where such people gather — neighborhoods, schools, clubs, workplaces, etc.
2. Because I am wealthy, I assume I will be able to meet my basic needs. I take having necessities for granted. I do not fear being hungry or homeless. I have never gone to bed hungry. I have never had to decide between paying the electric bill and feeding my children. Because I am wealthy, I do not have to worry about how emergencies will impact my ability to pay my bills.
3. Because I am wealthy, I have the freedom to waste food or other resources.
4. Because I am wealthy, I can hide family secrets and family failures behind the doors of my home.
5. Because I am wealthy, I have the time, education, and opportunity to enhance my inner life and my personal growth, to go to therapy.
6. Because I am wealthy, in my community I am trusted and not perceived as a threat. I can live where I choose and can move when and where I choose. I can expect that I will be welcomed where I choose to live. I can avoid people of other classes and races if I choose.

7. Because I am wealthy, law enforcement officials will likely assume I am a non-threatening person once they see me and hear me. I can be sure that my social class will be an advantage when seeking medical or legal help. Because I am wealthy, I am believed to be innocent by the criminal justice system at least until proven guilty. I can afford the best legal counsel and can often escape jail time regardless of my actual guilt.
8. Because I am wealthy, I can avoid spending time with people whom I have am trained or have learned to mistrust.
9. Because I am wealthy, I can buy things for my comfort. I do not have to shop around for the best buy or wait for sales if I don't chose to. When I am shopping, people usually call me "Sir" or "Ma'am". When making a purchase with a check or credit card, my appearance doesn't create problems.
10. Because I am wealthy, I can employ people to care for my children. Because I am wealthy, I can take vacations. Because I am wealthy, I can afford to have people clean my home or care for my lawn.
11. Because I am wealthy, I can assert that I deserve and am entitled to these privileges because I worked hard to create and/or maintain my wealth. I can assert that those unlike me simply do not work hard or know how to be financially responsible.
12. Because I am wealthy, I can believe that I deserve my status because of my accomplishments. Because I can have an attitude of entitlement, I may have an attitude of contempt toward those who have not succeeded according to my definition of success.
13. Because I am wealthy, I've always had health insurance. I can afford medical and hospital care. I can afford good mental health care in a setting which will insure my privacy.
14. Because I am wealthy, I have the advantage of having suitable clothing and manner when seeking employment.
15. Because I am wealthy, I can choose to make my privileged position as visible or invisible as I want, depending on the situation in which I find myself.
16. Because I am wealthy, I have the freedom to be unaware of the living conditions of others. I have the freedom to be unaware of the working conditions of others. I have the freedom to be unaware of the financial hardships of others.
17. Because I am wealthy, I can be ignorant about money in general and my own finances in particular. Because I am wealthy, I can get a loan/mortgage at a bank, even if my personal credit is bad.
18. Because I am wealthy, I don't need to worry about learning the social customs of others. People are expected to learn my social customs.
19. When I, or my children, are taught about history, people from my social class are represented in the books in overwhelming positive ways. Because I am wealthy, if I wish to my children to private schools, I

have a variety of options. I can find colleges that have many people from my social class as students and that welcome me or my child.

20. Because I am wealthy, if I apply for a prestigious job competing with people of a lower class, my social class will be to my advantage. The decision to hire me will be related to my background and where I went to school.

21. Because I am wealthy, my elected representatives share a similar background with mine and largely have my class interests at heart. I can influence the outcome of elections with my donations.

22. Because I am wealthy, I am seen as a benefit to my country, and not a drain on it. It doesn't matter if I am receiving (corporate) welfare or not – that government subsidy is only considered a tax break, not a drain on the economy.

23. Because I am wealthy, I can deny Social Class Privilege by asserting that all social classes are essentially the same. In fact, I can blame people for their poverty and for not being more like me. –

---Adapted from www.thewtc.org, Women's Theological Center and the MIT School of Architecture and Planning

Cis Privilege, or Because I am not Transgender

Cis means that you were born into the gender that you identify with. It is a label for "individuals who have a match between the gender they were assigned at birth, their bodies, and their personal identity" (Schilt and Westbrook 2009). Transgender means that you were not born into the gender that you identify with. That means that you may choose to change your name, dress according to the gender you identify with, take hormones to transition your body to the gender you identify with, or have surgery to transition your body.

1. Because I have cis privilege, it is unlikely that I will be ostracized by my family and friends, fired from my job, evicted from my home, given substandard medical care, suffer violence or sexual abuse, be ridiculed by the media, or preached against by religious organizations simply because of my professed identity or perceived incongruent gendered behaviors or characteristics.

2. Because I have cis privilege, strangers don't assume they can ask me what my genitals look like and how I have sex.

3. Because I have cis privilege, I can be confident that people will not call me by a different name or use improper pronouns. People do not disrespect me by using incorrect pronouns even after they've been corrected.

4. Because I have cis privilege, my childhood innocence was not interrupted with desperate prayers to a divinity begging to wake up in another body or as a different gender. I never grieve about my lost childhood and adolescence because I was born into the wrong body. I will only experience puberty once.
5. Because I have cis privilege, when initiating sex with someone, I do not have to worry that they won't be able to deal with my body or that having sex with me will cause my partner to question his or her own sexual orientation. I never worry about potential lovers shifting instantly from amorous to disdain and even violence because of my genitals.
6. Because I have cis privilege, I never suffered the indignation of "holding it," when both functional and unoccupied public restrooms are available because of fears of physical safety or of being arrested for being in the "wrong" bathroom.
7. Because I have cis privilege, I don't need to be concerned about public facilities segregated by sex. If I am institutionalized or homeless or arrested, I don't have to worry about being housed in the wrong section of a facility segregated by sex.
8. Because I have cis privilege, when I go to the gym or a public pool, I can use the showers.
9. Because I have cis privilege, I never considered hiding my body parts by binding or tucking.
10. Because I have cis privilege, my validity as a man/woman/human is not based upon how much surgery I've had or how well I "pass" into my gender identify. I don't have to hear "So have you had top or bottom surgery?" or "Oh, so you're really a [incorrect sex or gender]?" each time I come out to someone.
11. Because I have cis privilege, at my funeral, it is unlikely that my family would present me cross-dressed against my living wishes because they don't accept my gender.
12. Because I have cis privilege, it is easy to find clothes that fit me.
13. Because I have cis privilege, it is unlikely that I would risk my health by avoiding the medical profession for fear of discovery.
14. Because I have cis privilege, strangers do not ask me what my "real name" [birth name] is and then assume that they have a right to call me by that name.
15. Because I have cis privilege, I do not have to worry that someone wants to be my friend or have sex with me in order to prove his or her "hipness" or good politics.
16. Because I have cis privilege, I do not have to worry about whether I will be able to find a bathroom to use or whether I will be safe changing in a locker room.
17. Because I have cis privilege, if I am physically healthy, I don't think about having a hysterectomy, a mastectomy, massive hair removal, contra hormone therapy, vocal surgery, facial reassignment surgery, or genital reassignment surgery.

18. Because I have cis privilege, I do not have to choose between either invisibility (“passing”) or being consistently “othered” and/or tokenized based on my gender.

19. Because I have cis privilege, if I end up in the emergency room, I do not have to worry that my gender will keep me from receiving appropriate treatment nor will all of my medical issues be seen as a product of my gender. (“Your nose is running and your throat hurts? Must be due to the hormones!”)

20. Because I have cis privilege, I never worry about passing according to my gender. I am oblivious to the consequences of someone failing to do so. I do not fear violence or death.

21. Because I have cis privilege, I do not have to constantly educate other people about what it means to be me.

22. Because I have cis privilege, I have the privilege of being completely unaware of my own cisgender privilege.

--- Adapted from The Transgender Boards (<http://www.tgboards.com/>)

Because I am a Young Person, I am Denied Privileges

This one reads differently from the others. It is written from the view of children and youth.

1. Because I am a young person and lack social privilege, I am not legally allowed to vote, even though government makes decisions about me and people like me. I can die for my country at 18, but can’t legally drink alcohol until I am 21.

2. Because I am a young person and lack social privilege, it is often considered acceptable, appropriate and even desirable for my caregiver to physically assault me if I do not please them. In many places I can legally be physically disciplined in my place of education. If I am hit, even once, by a loved one, that is not normally legally considered abuse. It is likely that I am smaller than the person assaulting me, and that I will be unable to defend myself. If I am behaving in a way others do not like (or my caregiver has decided they no longer wish to be in a certain place), it is considered acceptable to physically pick me up and forcibly remove me from the area/situation.

3. Because I am a young person and lack social privilege, if I am routinely yelled at, criticized, and belittled in my own home, this might not generally be recognized as abusive behavior. My physical and emotional needs are often not treated as reasonable and important. If I am angry or upset, this is often not taken seriously and I am often condescended and patronized.

4. Because I am a young person and lack social privilege, I am routinely ignored or told to be quiet. If I am the only child in a group of people, I will often be shut out of the conversation or patronized. It is considered acceptable to talk over me or to interrupt me while I am speaking.

5. Because I am a young person and lack social privilege, I cannot speak in public to a group of people without putting people my age on trial.

6. Because I am a young person and lack social privilege, I do not have free choice with my language. If I use 'unacceptable' words I will often be punished.

7. Because I am a young person and lack social privilege, adults often feel they have the right to touch or tease me. Adults feel it is their right to talk to me even after I make it clear I do not wish to talk to them. Adults feel it is their right to touch me (tousle my hair, pinch my cheek) without my permission.

8. Because I am a young person and lack social privilege, society and the media often portray people like me in a negative light. The media often describes people like me as lazy, ignorant or criminal. People often make decisions on my behalf and tell me that they know better than I do what is best for me.

9. Because I am a young person and lack social privilege, the world is not generally sized to fit me. I am not usually able to find a seat which is made for somebody my size. Light switches, windows, sinks and toilets are not usually positioned for someone my size to be able to reach easily. I cannot be certain that I will be able to lock the door to my bathroom stall or reach the toilet paper once I'm sitting down.

10. Because I am a young person and lack social privilege, if I am suffering from mental health problems, I am often dismissed and have them attributed to my age.

11. Because I am a young person and lack social privilege, I am not usually given a choice about my place of education (or whether to participate in education). If I am sent to school I am legally expected to attend, whether it is my choice or not. If I am home educated I might not be given the choice to go to school if I so wish. If I am late to my place of education I will probably be reprimanded, even if this is the fault of my adult caregiver. I am almost never permitted to choose my educational curriculum, materials, or pace.

12. Because I am a young person and lack social privilege, I am usually not given a choice about which religion to follow.

13. Because I am a young person and lack social privilege, my sexual development is often not explained to me and sometimes actively discouraged. It is considered unacceptable for me to enjoy my sexuality.

14. Because I am a young person and lack social privilege, my belongings can be taken from me (often by teachers) and this is not viewed as theft.

15. Because I am a young person and lack social privilege, it is considered acceptable or even "prudent" for me to be discriminated against and regarded with suspicion when patronizing a store or other establishment. It is often considered acceptable to force me to submit my belongings to a search before/after/during my visit to a store or other establishment.

16. Because I am a young person and lack social privilege, I am considered the leader of tomorrow, rarely the leader of today. When adults put me in leadership positions, it is often in name only. I am rarely given true decision making power.

---Adapted from <http://shutupsitdown.co.uk/2009/11/16/the-adult-privilege-checklist/>

Because I Have a Disability, I am Denied Privileges

This list only addresses visible physical disabilities. There are many types of disability. Visible physical disabilities are one example of how people who have disabilities are denied privileges. This list was written from the point of view of someone with a disability.

1. Because I have a visible physical disability, I cannot easily arrange to be in the company of people of my physical ability. 2. Because I have a visible physical disability, if I need to relocate, I cannot easily be assured of purchasing housing that is accessible. Accessibility is one thing I need to make a special point of looking for.

3. Because I have a visible physical disability, I cannot be assured that my entire neighborhood will be accessible to me.

4. Because I have a visible physical disability, I cannot assume that I can go shopping alone, and they will always have appropriate accommodations to make this experience hassle-free.

5. Because I have a visible physical disability, I cannot turn on the television or open a newspaper and see people of my physical ability represented.

6. Because I have a visible physical disability, when I learned about history, people of my physical ability were not well represented.

7. Because I have a visible physical disability, I was not given curricular material which showed people like me as a role model.

8. Because I have a visible physical disability, I am only portrayed as either pathetic or occasionally heroic, but rarely normal.

9. Because I have a visible physical disability, people often think that my physical status is indicative of my mental capabilities. In other words, people think that because I have a physical disability, I have a cognitive disability as well.

10. Because I have a visible physical disability, I can swear, dress sloppily, or even be in a bad mood without people attributing it to my physical disability.

11. Because I have a visible physical disability, I cannot do well in challenging situations very often without being told what an inspiration I must be to other disabled people. In fact, sometimes I can't even do the laundry without people thinking that I am somehow being superhuman.

12. Because I have a visible physical disability, people see me and uncomfortably smile or look away.

13. Because I have a visible physical disability, people treat me like I am child. People think that they can touch me (pat my back, etc.) more so than they would touch other adults.

14. Because I have a visible physical disability, people (and often strangers) feel that they have a right to ask me what is wrong with me. Other people (and people who I want to be friends with) won't even acknowledge that I have a disability.

15. Because I have a visible physical disability, I have been asked to speak for all physically challenged people.

16. Because I have a visible physical disability, I hardly ever, when asking to speak to the person in charge, will find someone of the same physical status.

17. Because I have a visible physical disability, I typically cannot buy posters, postcards, picture books, greeting cards, dolls, toys, children's magazines featuring people of the same physical status unless it is a specialty book, aimed at sensitivity training.

18. Because I have a visible physical disability, my disability is seen as my sole identity.

19. Because I have a visible physical disability, I cannot take a job with an affirmative action employer without having someone suspect I got my job because of my disability. If I am fired, not given a raise, or not hired, I must question if it had anything to do with my appearing physically incompetent.

20. Because I have a visible physical disability, I am seen as asexual. Acknowledging my sexual desire makes people feel very uncomfortable.

21. Because I have a visible physical disability, I am more likely to be sexually assaulted.

22. Because I have a visible physical disability, I am more likely to be poor.

---Adapted from edequity@phoenix.edc.org

Taken in part from materials developed by Laura Boutwell, Ph.D., Bridgewater State University