

Privilege Walk VERSION B

Purpose: To provide participants with an opportunity to understand the intricacies of privilege.

Time: 1 ½ hours

Note to facilitators: This is a powerful exercise and should be thoroughly discussed afterwards.

1. Participants should be led to the exercise site silently, hand in hand, in a line.
2. At the site, participants can release their hands, but should be instructed to stand shoulder to shoulder in a straight line without speaking.
3. Participants should be instructed to listen carefully to each sentence, and take the step required if the sentence applies to them. They should be told there is a prize at the front of the site that everyone is competing for.
4. If you are short on time, we suggest shortening the number of statements and selecting from the items in boldface type.

Statements:

- 1. If your ancestors were forced to come to the USA not by choice, take one step back.**
- 2. If your primary ethnic identity is American, take one step forward.**
3. If you have ever been called names because of your race, class, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, take one step back.
- 4. If you grew up in a household with servants (gardeners, housecleaning, etc.) take one step forward.**
- 5. If your parents are educated professionals (doctors, lawyers, etc.) take one step forward.**
6. If you were raised in an area where there was prostitution, drug activity, etc., take one step back.
7. If you studied the culture of your ancestors in elementary school, take one step forward.
8. If you started school speaking a language other than English, take one step back.
- 9. If you ever had to skip a meal or go hungry because there was not enough money to buy food when you were growing up, take one step back.**
- 10. If you went on regular family vacations, take one step forward.**
- 11. If one of your parents was unemployed or laid off, not by choice, take one step back.**
- 12. If you attended private school or summer camp growing up, take one step forward.**
- 13. If you have ever been homeless or if your family ever had to move because they could not afford the rent, take one step back.**
- 14. If you have ever been followed in a store or accused of cheating or lying because of your race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, take one step back.**
15. If you were told that you were beautiful, smart and capable by your parents, take one step forward.
16. If you were ever discouraged from academics or jobs because of race, class, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, take one step back.
- 17. If you were encouraged to attend college by your parents, take one step forward.**
18. If you were raised in a single parent household, take one step back.
- 19. If your family owned the house where you grew up, take one step forward.**

- 20. If you saw members of your race, ethnic group, gender or sexual orientation well represented in a range of roles on television and the media, take one step forward.**
- 21. If you have ever been offered a good job because of your connection to a friend or family member, take one step forward.**
- 22. If you have inherited or are likely to inherit money or property, take one step forward.**
23. If you have to rely primarily on public transportation, take one step back.
- 24. If you have ever been stopped or questioned by the police because of your race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, take one step back.**
25. If you have ever been made uncomfortable by a joke related to your race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation but felt unsafe to confront the situation, take one step back.
26. If you have ever been the victim of violence related to your race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, take one step back.
27. If your parents did not grow up in the United States, take one step back.
- 28. If your parents told you you could be anything you wanted to be, take one step forward.**

Processing:

Ask participants to remain in their positions and to look at their position as well as the positions of the other participants.

Ask participants to consider who among them would probably win the prize.

Suggested questions for processing are:

- 1) What happened?
- 2) How did this exercise make you feel?
- 3) What were your thoughts as you did this exercise?
- 4) What have you learned from this experience?
- 5) What can you do with this information in the future?