

RESOURCE 19  
ANTI-RACISM WORKSHOP HANDOUT B  
UNDERSTANDING WHITE PRIVILEGE

1. I can arrange to be in the company of people of my own ethnic group most of the time.
2. I can avoid spending time with people whom I was trained to mistrust and who have learned to mistrust my kind or me.
3. If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure of renting or purchasing a dwelling in an area that I can afford and in which I would want to live.
4. I can be pretty sure that my neighbors in such a location will be neutral or pleasant to me.
5. I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed.
6. I can turn on the television or read the front page of the newspaper and see people of my ethnic group widely represented.
7. When I am told about our national heritage or about "civilization," I am shown that people of my color made it what it is.
8. 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 skin color.
9. I can arrange to protect my children most of the time from people who might not like them.
10. I can be pretty sure of having my voice heard in a group in which I am the only member of my ethnic group.
11. Whether I use checks, credit card, or cash, I can count on my skin color not to work against the appearance of financial responsibility.
12. I do not have to educate my children to be aware of systemic racism for their own protection.
13. I can be pretty sure my children will be well liked by their teachers, if they are obedient children. My chief worries about them do not concern societal attitudes about their ethnic group.
14. I can swear, or dress in secondhand clothes, or not answer letters, without having people attribute these choices to the bad morals, poverty, or illiteracy of my ethnic group.
15. I am never asked to speak for all the people of my ethnic group.
16. I can be pretty sure that if I ask to talk to the "person in charge" I will be facing a person of my own ethnic group.
17. I can choose blemish cover or bandages in "flesh" color and have them more or less match my skin color.