“Anyone know where I can cash in my white privilege points? Do I need a card? I keep hearing I have this, but I’m not sure where to go or how to use it.”

Brian Le, Limay Vong, Jocelyn Jackson, Olivia Carrasco
Anyone know where I can cash in my white privilege points? Do I need a card? I keep hearing I have this, but I'm not sure where to go or how to use it.

Apparently you can go anywhere, there is no limit to what being white can get you!

Apply to a job and you'll get quite a few, especially if you have an English based name. Same thing for buying a house.

Not true, at all. I've been denied plenty of jobs and I am white with an English based name.
Learning Outcomes

Be able to define what White privilege.

See how White supremacy affects the perception of White privilege.

Understand how White privilege plays out

Learn what to do with White privilege or how it plays a part in your life.
Ground Rules
What is White privilege?
WHEN did White become White?

The Birth of Whiteness in (1670)

Virginia Colonies made it illegal for any “negro or Indian,” free or not, to purchase Christians.

Quakers and self-identified whiteness.

Bacon’s Rebellion was a catalyst for race.
WHY did White become White?

Religion

Power

Systems
Discussion: How do you define privilege?
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Defining Privilege

Merriam-Webster’s definition “privilege”:

“A right or benefit that is given to some people and not to others, a special opportunity to do something that makes you proud, the advantage that wealthy and powerful people have over other people in a society.”

Privilege is not worked for. It is given and unearned.
Privilege vs. Spoiled

Merriam-Webster’s definition of “spoiled”:

“To impair, damage, or harm the character or nature of (someone) by unwise treatment, excessive indulgence, etc.”

Privilege exists when one group has something that is systematically denied to others not because of who they are or what they’ve done or not done, but because of the social category they belong to.

Fisher v. University of Texas
Race & Privilege

Being White has its perks:

Average Median Net Worth
Land ownership

But every race is getting richer

Median family wealth

$134,008

$91,440

$13,900

$11,184

Whites  Asian  Hispanic  Black

42.5%  50.6%  44.6%

CNN’s study on White median family wealth vs. People of Color’s median family wealth
Race & Privilege continued

Being White has its perks:

Scholarships for “everyone”.

Job Acceptance

Name: Thomas Meyer

Seniority: 3rd Year Associate
Alma Mater: NYU Law School
Race/Ethnicity: African American

Name: Thomas Meyer

Seniority: 3rd Year Associate
Alma Mater: NYU Law School
Race/Ethnicity: Caucasian

“Caucasian” Thomas Meyer
“generally good writer but needs to work on...”
“has potential”
“good analytical skills”

“African American” Thomas Meyer
“needs lots of work”
“can’t believe he went to NYU”
“average at best”
Race and Privilege in the Media

- Racial Biases
White Supremacy and White Privilege
What is White Supremacy?

*White supremacy* is the belief that white people are superior to those of all other races, and should therefore dominate society.

*Systemic racism* occurs when the way a society is structured systematically ends up giving advantages to some and disadvantages to others.

- Wealth Gap
- Employment
- Incarceration
Racism  
Dehumanization, Othering, and Violence

Oppressors  
(Ruling Elite)  
The 1%, 1/4 of the 1% is White, heterosexual men (WASP). They rule society.

Privileged  
(Consists of White People)  
The Privileged includes the Oppressors. Most are not aware of their privilege and have difficulty recognizing it although they are benefiting from it.

Oppressed  
(Non-Privileged Group)  
People of color, religious minorities.

“I’ll tell you what’s at the bottom of it. If you can convince the lowest white man that he’s better than the best colored man, he won’t notice you’re picking his pocket. Hell, give him somebody to look down on, and he’ll even empty his pockets for you.”

-Lyndon Johnson
White privilege at Iowa State University
The Cy-Hawk Tailgate

Shelby Mueller’s actions speak as loud as her words.

Jovanni Rubio’s media portrayal vs. hers.

Where is she now?

Rubio, a senior in mechanical engineering, told the Register "I did not react, because I knew if I were to retaliate, it would only prove her right."

He later taped his sign back together, he said.

Mueller has been identified as a West Des Moines resident and is listed on the spring 2015 Dean's List at Mercy College. She did not return a call seeking comment and has since deleted all of her social media accounts.

Her name has become a hashtag on Twitter by people angry at what they called her racist actions.
State of Iowa

- U.S Rep. Steve King (July 18th, RNC)
  - “White people have contributed more to civilization than other ‘sub-groups’.”
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=med0tr9q5Fs
State of Iowa cont.

• “A Black person in IA is more than 8 times as likely to be arrested for possession than a White person, despite equal usage rates.”
On Campus: Breaking it down

The Questions asked:

What is does privilege mean to you? What is privilege?

Do you recognize your privileges, what are some?

Do you think race is an issue at Iowa State University?

Have you heard of the term "White privilege?" If so. what does it mean to you?
Moving Forward
Why this is Important

These conversations on race are often only talked about in by people of color.

Issues of profiling and privilege are more talked about.

Demographic shifts are happening.

Intersecting identities: This matters and it relates to you.
How to Move Forward

Accept that privilege exists. Acknowledge that it exists.

Understand that you benefit from it.

Use your privilege as a platform.

Get involved.

Do something. Doing nothing only allows the oppressor to win.

Bansky’s work in Gaza.
Questions?
References


Hitchcock. (2002). How did it all begin? In Lifting the white veil: An exploration of white American culture in a multiracial context (pp. 73-101).


