

WEEK

3

# What is Privilege?



*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” – James Baldwin*

Privilege means a built-in advantage, immunity, or benefit that a person or group enjoys beyond what others have access to or experience. White privilege refers to the level of societal advantage that comes with being seen as the norm in America, automatically conferred irrespective of wealth, gender, or other factors. It provides certain advantages, but it’s something you would barely notice unless it was suddenly taken away — or unless it had never applied to you in the first place. Writer, **Christina Emba**, offers the following examples to illuminate the concept and the reality of white privilege:

- Taking it for granted that when you’re shopping alone, you probably won’t be followed or harassed.
- Knowing that if you ask to speak to “the person in charge,” you’ll almost certainly be facing someone of your own race.
- Being able to think about different social, political, or professional options without asking whether someone of your race would be accepted or allowed to do what you want to do.
- Job applicants with white-sounding names are more likely to get called in for an interview.

Additional examples:

- Being shown houses in the neighborhood of your choice when trying to purchase a home.
- Skin tone will not be a reason people hesitate to trust your credit or financial responsibility.

Share your reflections and any resources that help further the discussion on today’s topic on social media using the hashtag #UWLIEquityChallenge

A PARTNERSHIP OF



WEEK

3

# What is Privilege? Challenge



Today, we dive into how racial identity shapes every individual's life experiences - and how privilege allows more doors to open for those who possess it.



## ACTIVITY ONE

**READ:** Peggy McIntosh's groundbreaking essay that popularized the phrase "White Privilege"



## ACTIVITY TWO

**WATCH:** How the same trip to the grocery store became two very different experiences



## ACTIVITY THREE

**WATCH:** A captivating lesson about privilege



## Additional Content: (optional)

**READ:** 10 things you should know about white privilege



**WATCH:** Explained: White Privilege, Systemic Racism, and Implicit Bias

Share your reflections and any resources that help further the discussion on today's topic on social media using the hashtag #UWLIEquityChallenge

A PARTNERSHIP OF

