

Privileges that benefit white people in our society

The following list was adapted from a seminal article by Peggy McIntosh, entitled *White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack*. (1988) and available online at: <http://www.amptoons.com/blog/files/mcintosh.html>

1. If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure of renting or purchasing housing in an area which I can afford and in which I would want to live.
2. I can be pretty sure that my neighbors in such a location will be neutral or pleasant to me.
3. I can turn on the television or open to the front page of the paper and see people of my race widely represented.
4. When I am told about our national heritage or about "civilization," I am shown that people of my color made it what it is.
5. I can be sure that my children will be given curricular materials that testify to the existence of their race.
6. I can be pretty sure of having my voice heard in a group in which I am the only member of my race.
7. I can be casual about whether or not to listen to another person's voice in a group in which s/he is the only member of his/her race.
8. I can go into a music shop and count on finding the music of my race represented, into a supermarket and find the staple foods which fit with my cultural traditions, into a hairdresser's shop and find someone who can cut my hair.
9. Whether I use cheques, credit cards or cash, I can count on my skin color not to work against the appearance of financial reliability.
10. I can arrange to protect my children most of the time from people who might not like them.
11. I do not have to educate my children to be aware of systemic racism for their own daily physical protection.
12. I can be pretty sure that my children's teachers and employers will tolerate them if they fit school and workplace norms; my chief worries about them do not concern others' attitudes toward their race.
13. I can talk with my mouth full and not have people put this down to my color.

14. I can swear, or dress in second hand clothes, or use slang, without having people attribute these choices to the bad morals, the poverty or the illiteracy of my race.
15. I can do well in a challenging situation without being called a credit to my race.
16. I am never asked to speak for all the people of my racial group.
17. I can remain oblivious of the language and customs of persons of color who constitute the world's majority without feeling in my culture any penalty for such oblivion.
18. I can criticize our government and talk about how much I fear its policies and behavior without being seen as a cultural outsider.
19. I can be pretty sure that if I ask to talk to the "person in charge", I will be facing a person of my race.
20. If a cop pulls me over, or stops me on the street, I can be sure I haven't been singled out because of my race.
21. I can easily buy posters, post-cards, picture books, greeting cards, dolls, toys and children's magazines featuring people of my race.
22. When I participate in most meetings or activities I feel connected and that I belong rather than isolated, out-of-place, outnumbered, unheard, held at a distance or feared
23. If I declare 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 get.
24. I am not made acutely aware that my shape, bearing or body odor will be taken as a reflection on my race.
25. I can worry about racism without being seen as self-interested or self-seeking.
26. If my day, week or year is going badly, I need not ask of each negative episode or situation whether it had racial overtones.
27. 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.
28. I can be late to a meeting without having the lateness reflect on my race.
29. I can arrange my activities so that I will never have to experience feelings of rejection owing to my race.
30. If I have low credibility as a leader I can be sure that my race is not the problem.

31. I can easily find academic courses and institutions which give attention only to people of my race.

32. I can expect figurative language and imagery in all of the arts to testify to experiences of my race.

33. I can choose blemish cover or bandages in "flesh" color and have them more or less match my skin.

34. I have no difficulty finding neighborhoods where people approve of my household.

35. I will feel welcomed and "normal" in the usual walks of public life, institutional and social.