



PRIVILEGE FOR SALE ACTIVITY

This activity is a re-make of a similar activity that can be found here: <http://www.socialjusticetoolbox.com/activity/privilege-for-sale/>. While most privilege-for-sale exercises are designed to place the focus on one experience of privilege/marginalization, this version incorporates a variety of experiences to try to prompt feelings of affinity and difference within all of the activity participants.

Everyone experiences this exercise differently, so it's important to be gentle and generous with one another. For more information on how to discuss difficult topics such as these, see the Generous Space Facilitators Handbook.

Instructions:

Split your group into smaller groups of 4-6 people. Cut out some pieces of paper and write an amount of money on the slip. Some slips should have lower amounts (\$100-300), a few in the middle, and some towards the top end (\$2800-3000). If your group is quite small, be sure that at least one group has a low amount and one group has a large amount. Hand out the list of privileges and read the following instructions:

For the purpose of the exercise, no matter what experiences or identities you bring into this space, you do not have any of the privileges on the list. Each group will receive an amount of money from the facilitator. Each group will then collectively decide which privileges you will purchase. If your group receives \$100, that means that you must collectively decide what one privilege you are going to buy. Each privilege costs \$100.

Give the groups 10-15 minutes to discuss which privileges they would like to purchase. You may choose to hand out pens or pencils to aid with this selection process. After the time is up, open the floor for a facilitated discussion using the following questions:

What was it like to do this activity?

What questions did you all wrestle with when trying to make this decision as a group?

What struck you about the list?

Where there any items you didn't totally understand or didn't connect with at first?

What privileges stuck out to you, what kind of privileges were they?

What was the process like deciding as a group? What do you think the value of doing this activity in groups was?



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Please examine the following list of privileges with your group. Each privilege costs \$100 to purchase and your facilitator will be coming around shortly with the amount of money your group has to spend.

1. I can celebrate my romantic relationships with my family and friends.
2. I can be confident that my coworkers won't assume I was hired because of the way I look or identify.
3. I can find and seek out role models who look/identify like me.
4. I can kiss/hug/be affectionate in public without discomfort, threat, or punishment.
5. I receive validation and acceptance from my religious or spiritual community.
6. I am able to live where I choose and move when and where I choose.
7. I can balance a career and a family without being called selfish for not staying at home (or being constantly pressured to stay at home).
8. If I have a bad day or I am in a bad mood, people won't attribute it to my sex/race.
9. I am able to take vacations/travel when and where I want
10. I can be reasonably assured that when I'm in public I will not be sexually harassed or assaulted.
11. I can be reasonably assured that my neighbours will be neutral or pleasant to me wherever I choose to live.
12. I am able to use public restrooms/locker rooms without fear of verbal abuse, physical intimidation, or arrest.
13. I am able to choose blemish cover or bandages in flesh colour and have them more or less match my skin.
14. I am able to feel like an affirmed and included member of the LGBTQ+ community.
15. I can give birth to and raise children without worrying about state intervention.
16. Medical procedures that I deem essential are covered by insurance.
17. People assume and use my pronouns correctly.
18. I can get legal documents that accurately represent who I am and how I identify.
19. I can, if I wish, arrange to be in the company of people of who look/identify like me most of the time.
20. I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed.
21. I can be sure that my children will be given curricular materials that testify to the existence & value of people who look/identify like them.
22. I can be confident that I will never be asked to speak for all the people of my racial group, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical status.
23. I can assume that police officers are people to be trusted rather than feared.
24. I can go home from most meetings of organizations I belong to (i.e. Generous Space) feeling somewhat tied in, rather than isolated, out-of-place, out-numbered, unheard, held at a distance, or feared.
25. I can be assured that my entire neighbourhood will be accessible to me.
26. I can be assured that assumptions about my mental capabilities will not be made based on my physical status.
27. I can regularly perform well in challenging situations without being told that I am an inspiration to other people who look or identify like me.
28. When asking to speak to the person in charge, I will almost always find someone of the same physical status/gender/race as myself.
29. I can speak about my experiences without having to emotionally coach people through how my story affects them.
30. If I choose to speak up about racism/ableism/transphobia/patriarchy in LGBTQ+ spaces I will be applauded rather than resented.
31. I can be reasonably confident that most of the time conversations and information will be communicated to me in a way that I can understand and participate in.