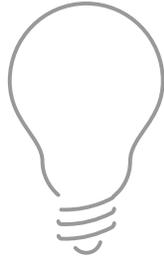


WHITE PRIVILEGE GLASSES DISCUSSION GUIDE



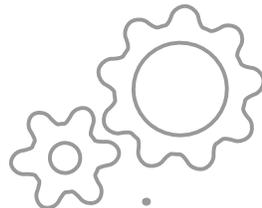
thinking



talking



acting



The mission of CTS is to work towards greater social justice. And nowhere is this more needed than in the area of race.

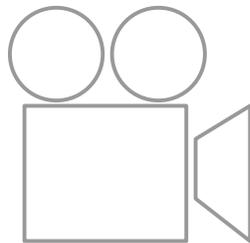
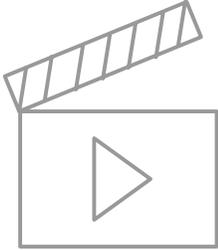
To this end, CTS has created a video to shine the light on White Privilege. We believe the racial divide will only change when the collaborative “we” understand the concepts of privilege and begin to identify and correct the systems that advantage one group over the other.

We intend for this White Privilege Glasses video to spark discussions and inspire dialogue about this very serious issue. We want to start people thinking, talking ... acting.

step one

Watch The Video

ctschicago.edu/wpg



You may also want to watch
the Behind the Scenes video:
youtube.com/watch?v=ct-KCCUbMw8

step two

Start The Discussion

Confronting racism is never easy. Issues of race and privilege are always difficult. But the discussion has to be had.



Here are some questions or thought starters to help you get the conversation going.

- What is privilege? Who has it? Who doesn't?
- Why do some people have privilege while others don't?
- Name some examples of White Privilege. Where do these privileges come from?
- What can people with privilege do that people without privilege can't?
- What is the cost of White Privilege for persons of color? What is the cost of White Privilege for white people?
- How are issues like education, healthcare, poverty, housing, and economic status related to White Privilege?
- How are societal challenges like drugs, crime, failing schools, high drop out rates, and food deserts related to White Privilege?
- Why is it challenging for white people to think about (and do something about) White Privilege?
- When did you first realize you were white?
- How do you see White Privilege demonstrated in media daily?

Many of us born after the Civil Rights Movement grew up with programs like Sesame Street and through those kinds of programs, in our classrooms, and in many of our homes, we were given the message that race doesn't matter – that skin color doesn't matter. But, in reality, it does matter.

We may want to work for and dream of a society where race doesn't matter but today, in our world, it does matter. It matters in educational outcomes; rates of arrest and incarceration; risk for diseases. It matters in life and death ways.

What are the dangers of promoting the idea that race doesn't matter? That we should all strive to be "colorblind" (as if that were possible)? What are other ways of promoting equality, dismantling privilege, and combating prejudice that do not blind us to the realities of institutional, structural racism?

step three

Perform A White Privilege Audit

Spend a few minutes and consider how White Privilege manifests itself in your life. Take a fresh look around your home and environment. Ask yourself, "Who as a society do we look up to, admire, celebrate, and honor?"



- Look at the pictures hanging on the walls of your home. Who is represented in your personal photographs? In paintings? Who are the artists? Do they reflect various races?
- Look at the books on your shelf? What is the race of the author?
- Go to your favorite local bookstore and look in the children's section. Count the number written by or about white people versus the number written by or about people of color.
- Make a list of your favorite movies and TV shows. What is the number or percentage written by or about white people?
- Look at names of the streets in your town. Or the names of local colleges. Or, even the faces on the money in your pocket. How many are white?
- Look at your social circles, the management at your place of employment, the people in charge of the organizations of which you are a part. What do they look like?



step four

Stay At It

The dialogue on privilege is constantly evolving. Help yourself by staying up-to-date on the latest thinking. Here are some resources that will help. Check them out. And remember, knowledge and understanding are the first steps step to combating racism.

Articles

“White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack”
by Peggy MacIntosh

nationalseedproject.org/white-privilege-unpacking-the-invisible-knapsack

(Includes notes for facilitators)

“An Open Letter to White Men in America”
by John Dorhauer

huffingtonpost.com/rev-dr-john-c-dorhauer/an-open-letter-to-white-m_b_7857790.html

“Why White Mothers and Black Mothers Worry Differently”
by Lisa Seiwert

faithstreet.com/onfaith/2014/12/11/why-white-mothers-and-black-mothers-worry-differently/35415

“White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondences through Work in Women’s Studies”
by Peggy McIntosh

mediaed.org/Handouts/WhitePrivilegeAndMalePrivilege.pdf

“Common White Privilege Excuses”
Blog by Odin

odinsblog.tumblr.com/post/127808197400/28-common-racist-attitudes-and-behaviors

“10 Defensive Reactions to White Privilege That Make No Damn Sense – But Are Super Common”
by Maisha Z. Johnson

<http://everydayfeminism.com/2016/01/reactions-white-privilege/>

Videos

“FRONTLINE, A Class Divided”
by Jane Elliott

pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/divided

A teacher changes her lesson plans and changes lives. Also known as Brown Eyes, Blue Eyes, watching this impactful frontline program requires a cable subscription.

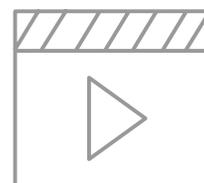
For a shorter version/adaptation, see this YouTube video:

youtube.com/watch?v=Nqv9k3jbtYU

“The Creation Of White Privilege”

youtube.com/watch?v=J3Xe1kX7Wsc

Tim Wise on White Privilege



“What is White Privilege”

youtube.com/watch?v=ONuBBmRRpM&feature=fvw%20

The Young Turks read and discuss a text written by Tim Wise comparing how the families of Palin and Obama were treated.

“White People”

youtube.com/watch?v=zjj1PmJcRM

MTV documentary on race from the point of view of young white people.

“A Dawning of Recognition”

addictinginfo.org/2015/10/23/the-moment-a-group-of-white-people-finally-get-why-black-people-cannot-be-racist-video

Books

Between the World and Me, Spiegel & Grau
by Ta-Nehisi Coates

[amazon.com/Between-World-Me-Ta-Nehisi-Coates/dp/0812993543](https://www.amazon.com/Between-World-Me-Ta-Nehisi-Coates/dp/0812993543)

Dear White Christians
by Jennifer Harvey

[smile.amazon.com/Dear-White-Christians-Reconciliation-Christianity/
dp/0802872077/ref=sr_1_8?ie=UTF8&qid=1452537603&sr=8-
8&keywords=jennifer+racism](https://smile.amazon.com/Dear-White-Christians-Reconciliation-Christianity/dp/0802872077/ref=sr_1_8?ie=UTF8&qid=1452537603&sr=8-8&keywords=jennifer+racism)

The Possessive Investment of Whiteness
by George Lipschitz

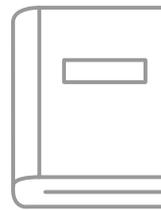
[smile.amazon.com/Possessive-Investment-Whiteness-Identity-Politics/
dp/1592134947/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1452537748&sr=1-1&keywords=po
ssessive+investment+in+whiteness](https://smile.amazon.com/Possessive-Investment-Whiteness-Identity-Politics/dp/1592134947/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1452537748&sr=1-1&keywords=po
ssessive+investment+in+whiteness)

The History of White People
by Nell Irvin Painter

[amazon.com/History-White-People-Irvin-Painter/dp/0393339742](https://www.amazon.com/History-White-People-Irvin-Painter/dp/0393339742)

White By Law: The Legal Construction of Race
by Ian Haney Lopez

nyupress.org/books/9780814736944



Resources For Talking With Children About Race



“What White Children Need to Know About Race”
by Ali Michael and Eleonora Bartoli

nais.org/Magazines-Newsletters/ISMagazine/Pages/What-White-Children-Need-to-Know-About-Race.aspx



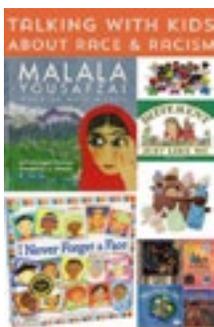
“How White Parents Should Talk To Their Young Kids About Race”
by Melinda Wenner Moyer

slate.com/articles/double_x/the_kids/2014/03/teaching_tolerance_how_white_parents_should_talk_to_their_kids_about_race.html

**HUFFPOST
PARENTS**

“For Whites (Like Me): On White Kids”
by Jennifer Harvey

huffingtonpost.com/jennifer-harvey/dear-parents-of-white-children_b_3719818.html



“Resources For Talking With Kids About Racism”
by Lorien Van Ness

creativewithkids.com/resources-for-talking-to-kids-about-race-and-racism

Thank You

Thank you for your interest in addressing
White Privilege in America.

Our goal is to inspire dialogue and have an open discussion.
We respect different opinions and encourage your input.

We realize that this is not an easy topic and that there
is not universal agreement on it. We hope that you will
listen generously to each other, be open-minded, discuss,
and then act.



Keep the dialogue going. [#WhitePrivilegeGlasses](#)
And share your reflections with us. wpg@ctsichicago.edu



ctsichicago.edu

