

WEEK 3

What is Privilege?



“For those of us called white, whiteness simply is. Whiteness becomes, for us, the unspoken, uninterrogated norm, taken for granted, much as water can be taken for granted by a fish.”

TIM WISE, WHITE LIKE ME

Privilege is the unearned social, political, economic, and psychological benefits of membership in a group that has institutional and structural power. Having privilege means you have fewer barriers to overcome to be successful. There are many types of privilege that different groups have in the US. We commonly hear about privilege because of race or gender, but privilege also exists for different groups based on religion, sexuality, ability, class, education level. Read more about [5 common types of privilege](#).

As we continue to explore the different types of privilege and levels of equity, it is important to think about “intersectionality”, introduced by [Kimberle Crenshaw](#), and how it connects. [Intersectionality](#) is a lens for seeing how aspects of a person’s identities and various forms of inequality often operate together and exacerbate each other.

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Week 3 Challenge



ACTIVITY 1

Take this eye-opening [privilege self-assessment](#) by BuzzFeed to discover where you are on the spectrum.



ACTIVITY 2

Watch this short, powerful BuzzFeed [video featuring a privilege walk](#). See how privilege shows up differently for this group of co-workers. Note: this video may be triggering for some people of color.



ACTIVITY 3

Read as University of Illinois students share experiences of social injustices and on-campus discrimination in the university's [Daily Illini](#).



ACTIVITY 4

Watch this [video from Robin DiAngelo, author of White Fragility](#) about how racism isn't only individual acts of discrimination, it is a deeply embedded system that impacts all of our lives.

Share your reflections and any resources that helps further the discussion on today's topic on social media using the hashtag [#UWIEquityChallenge](#).

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