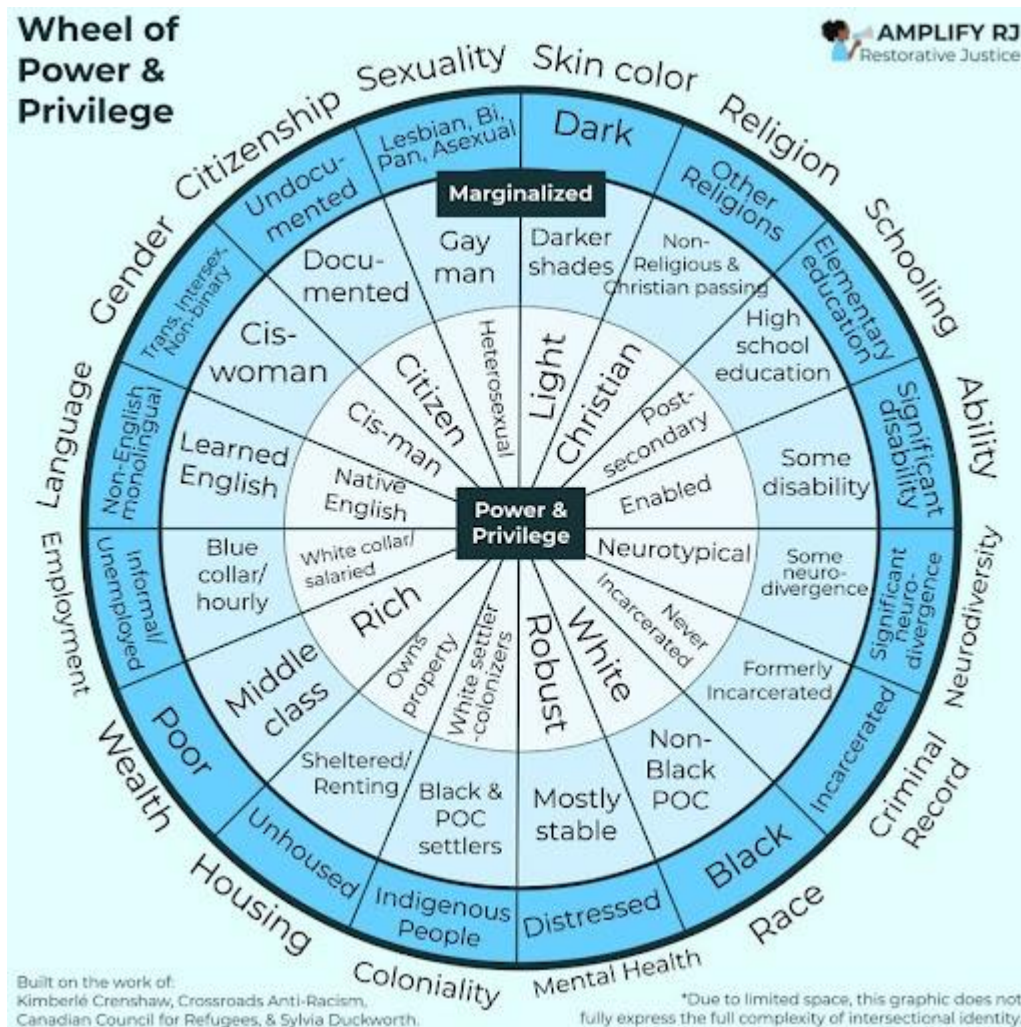


## Assignment 2: Positionality

What is positionality?

- Positionality is the social and political context that shapes your identity in terms of race, gender, sexuality, ability, etc.
- Positionality refers to an individual's intersectional identities and how they relate to structures/systems of power, privilege, and oppression.
- Positionality describes how your identity influences, and potentially biases, your understanding of and outlook on the world.
- Positionality is fluid and constantly evolving depending on one's current social position.

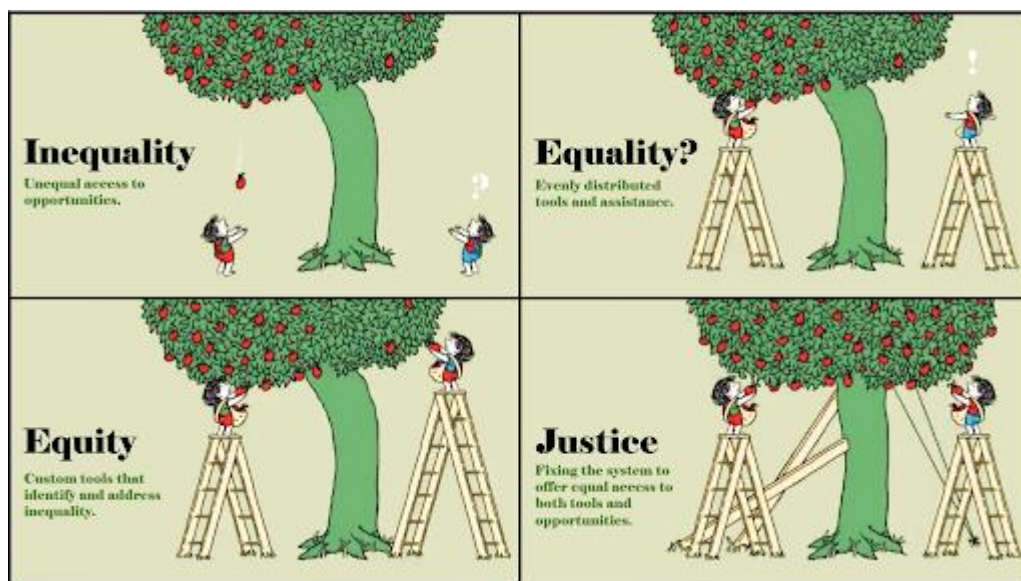


Question 1: Identify your positionality based on the Wheel of Power & Privilege above. Write it down and locate your position in the wheel. What traits were you born with and what traits are the result of your encounter and engagement with the world? Have you ever experienced a sudden rise or drop in life that changed your positionality? How did that happen and how did

that change your perspective/understanding/outlook of the world?

Question 2: Read the image below and answer the questions

- What is the picture trying to say and how do you understand it?
- How does your positionality shape your understanding of equity? Has the problem of equity and justice ever occurred to you or bothered you?
- Connecting it back to the course, how do you link this image to the marginalized communities that suffer from oppression and injustice of the society such as the black and brown community in the South Bronx back in the 1970s?



Question 3: Reflect on the origin of Hip-Hop, the cross-Bronx expressway launched by the government, the turbulence and upheaval of South Bronx, the bloody gang wars, and the poverty and desperation of the destroyed then abandoned people. How do you view this history? How do you understand Hip-Hop knowing how it was born? What role does your positionality play in this process, did it facilitate or hinder your perception of Hip-Hop? What reflection do you have thus far?

Question 4: Think about the kids/teenagers in the South Bronx. Once the system broke down, the schools were shut down and jobs were lost. A lot of young people came out to the street and turned the neighborhood into an outlaw area. Hip-Hop was born from there -- created by the youth living in that situation. Recall your teenage years:

- What were you up to in your youth? Where did you live and what resources and education did you get from school? How did you spend your extracurricular time?
- How did your activities differ from Hip-Hop? Have some elements of Hip-Hop made you uncomfortable? Why does it happen and how would you process it?

- How do you understand the differences in education and life experiences? How does it reflect in the art forms and ways of expression in all Hip-Hop activities including battle, party, diss, offensive jokes, graffiti, etc? When you consume the cultural product called Hip-Hop, or when people appropriate Hip-Hop for commercial music streaming, studio dance choreography, luxury fashion and style, decadent life with cash and women.....eradicating its black roots and history, did your perspective/understanding of Hip-Hop change? How would you proceed with Hip-Hop after knowing its history? The video below may give you more insights into the problem of race and positionality:



Make sure to address all these questions to your greatest extent. Talk to your TA and classmates about your reflections and confusion. All voices are embraced as long as they are genuine. Please keep in mind the course etiquette in discussions and practice diversity, equity, and inclusion in all activities.