

# Social Privilege Activity and Writing Assignment

Submit Assignment

Due

Monday by 11:59pm

Points

40

Submitting

a text entry box or a file upload

Available

Mar 29 at 5pm - Apr 11 at 5pm

13 days

## HSS 280: Social Privilege “Scavenger Hunt”

**Due:** Upload your assignment on CANVAS by Monday, April 9 by 5:00pm.

People who belong to majority or dominant groups (based on race, gender, sexual orientation, social class, etc.) are often unaware of the advantages provided by their group memberships. This activity is intended to provide you with a hands-on way of exploring group-based differences in privilege.

**Location:** Go to a large store that sells a variety of items (e.g., cards, toys, shirts) such as a Target, Bed, Bath and Beyond, Wal-Mart, Kmart, TJ Maxx, Marshals, CVS, Duane Reade, etc.

**Challenge:** Find as many of the following items in the store as you can. Record the approximate number that you can find for each of the following items:

Item	# found
1. Dolls and/or action figures that are not White	
2. Dolls and/or action figures that are White	
3. Holiday cards for different religions: Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Easter, Passover, etc	
4. A Valentine’s Day, wedding, anniversary, or romance card designed for heterosexual couples and for LGBTQ+ couples	

5. Birthday cards that poke fun at aging (e.g., older adults are cranky, forgetful, sick, unattractive, useless, etc)
6. Signs in the store/mall featuring individuals who are over 60
7. Picture frames containing “filler pictures” of people who are Asian
8. Picture frames containing “filler pictures” of people who are Latino/a
9. Picture frames containing “filler pictures” of people who are Black or African-American
10. Picture frames containing “filler pictures” of people who are White
11. Picture frames containing “filler pictures” of LGBTQ+ couples
12. Picture frames containing “filler pictures” of older adults
13. Beauty products marketed toward Black or African-American women
14. Beauty products marketed toward Asian women
15. Beauty products marketed toward Latina women
16. Beauty products marketed toward White women
17. Anti-aging products marketed toward men
18. Anti-aging products marketed toward women
19. Anti-aging products (featuring individuals who appear under 40 years of age)
20. Band-Aids for a wide range of skin tones
21. An item that features a Native American sports team mascot

22. An item that features a Native American who is not related to a sports team

Conclusions: Write 2-3 pages about your experiences searching for these items and your subsequent reflections.

- How difficult or easy it was to find the items on the list?
- What reactions did you have while you were looking around the store?
- What interactions did you have (if any) with other customers or employees while searching for items?
- What were your overall reactions to this assignment?
- We all hold multiple identities, some of which provide us with advantages or privileges and some that may result in with disadvantages. Has this activity helped you identify ways in which some individuals may be privileged and others may be disadvantaged? Do you think discussing and understanding privilege is important? Why or why not?
- Any suggested improvements for this activity?