

Final Paper

White Privilege is still present and our acknowledgment about it is getting worse.

Although as a society in the 21st century we have made a stride to limit the discrimination, white people will always have a certain advantage somehow someway and can control their path much easier. This could be getting a job, a relationship with officers, getting into schools, and pretty much every situation possible. Of course, there has been much improvement since the civil rights movement, but today's society continues to favor the majority which in this case is whites. In fact, some parts of America are clearly much worse than others. It may be because of our world's history and the stigmas that continue to linger in modern day. Now, it is important to know that this is primarily because as a society we are not taught this. Therefore, subconsciously there is denial or no thought anytime the situation is in white people's favor. White privilege has almost become normal and there are many examples of how this is the case.

Once I moved to North Carolina from New Jersey, I noticed a difference and white privilege was much more apparent. Of course, I most likely experienced privilege back home but I wasn't able to see it. My school was pretty diverse, therefore most situations felt pretty medium and was ignorant or didn't recognize the fact I was over-privileged. We were not taught privilege still but learned through the environment around us that everyone was equal. Never did I have an instance where I felt my skin color was used to an advantage or felt dominant over the minority because I was white. However, once I came down to North Carolina I started to hear and see some racial stereotypes. More importantly, how much white privilege I actually had and how it is much more obvious in the south. To be more specific, I work water rescue at the beach and all my coworkers are white males. Mostly old who are in fact educated. Once I learned about

on purpose but this kind of job would be considered less towards African Americans based on privilege and stereotypes. Partly because the area is in the south which is known for people being oblivious to unknown privilege. My co-workers wouldn't even think about it because they weren't taught to acknowledge the obvious privilege. Now that I think about it, how many lifeguards that are african american do you really know? This is just one instance where a job is privileged and not to a certain skin color. An example of not a Black disadvantage, but instead white privilege strictly being an advantage for me.

Another example that resonated with me is something I experienced indirectly recently. A man made a video to point out clear privilege being represented among cops. He showed a video where a teenage girl got stopped by a police officer and decided to make a tik tok. He says "It must be nice" as he shows multiple instances where African-Americans are pulled over and either end up in the hospital or dead. Routine traffic stops, expired license plates, busted tail lights shouldn't end in an action packed confrontation with the police. The man goes on explaining the studies of how data is supported that Black drivers are much more likely to be stopped by the police. In the end, he explains how they don't have the privilege of making tik toks during a traffic stop with the police. Now the young lady is of course ignorant to her power over the minority, but it goes to show that white privilege is still not being understood or taught in modern society.

The sociological concept that reflects my example is from Peggy McIntosh's "White Privilege: Unpacking The Invisible Knapsack." She goes into detail about white privilege.

She explains how privilege is not what we think it is and can be misleading. There is a phenomenon present where as a white society we deny that we have any advantage. Instead, only

recognize white privilege....So I have begun in an untutored way to ask what it is like to have white privilege. I have come to see white privilege as an invisible package of unearned assets which I cannot count on cashing each day, but about which I was meant to remain oblivious.” She goes on to list the ways of skin color privilege and how people of African American descent can not experience these conditions the same as the majority. Skin color is like a superpower and can freely do whatever you would like without being oppressed.

After McIntosh explanation on white privilege, it creates a new perspective or change on how as a society or the dominant group we view this concept. Now, it is understood that white privilege should be acknowledged and shouldn't deny that dominant groups exist. Also, realizing how certain everyday activities can be examples of white privilege. One point McIntosh made: “I can be sure that if I need legal or medical help, my race will not work against me”(White Privilege, McIntosh). Something white people like myself don't think twice about. In other words, blind to the idea that this happens and black people must face these conditions. In addition, what is seen now is how very few whites complain about disadvantages in relation to their skin color. If it were flipped, african-americans would be criticized and changes wouldn't be made.

So how does a workplace full of white people or blacks being pulled over that result in hard confrontations change? Well, it would take a long time just like how the stigmas of African Americans have evolved over history. To start, educating the new generation about white privilege and demonstrating how their skin color can be an advantage. Avoiding job channeling and racial formations. I for one, after reading this excerpt will now be able to determine if my

situation where this is the case.

Privilege over a dominant group has been around since ancient civilization. White privilege has stemmed from hundreds of years ago when people actually owned other people. Today, it is very much still alive and the majority group (whites) seem to be ignorant to the fact that they have advantages. In addition, not worrying about how their skin color will reflect on society or the limited opportunities and disadvantages an African American has. Whether it is a job that is “suggested” for whites to do or confrontations with higher ranks that lead to violence because of skin color stereotypes, white privilege is present. We continue to unacknowledge but must be understood what exactly white privilege is. Finally, what can be done and how do we stop interpreting people based on the complexion of their skin?

Works Cited

Mcintosh , Peggy. *White Privilege Mcintosh - Department of Psychology - UMBC.*

https://psychology.umbc.edu/files/2016/10/White-Privilege_McIntosh-1989.pdf.