

Social Positions: Privileged or Marginalized?

As you read each statement, make a mark under either marginalized or privileged, as detailed in the situation description.

Situation	Privileged	Marginalized
If you believe you have been followed around a store while you shopped because of your race, mark marginalized (if not, privileged)		
If as a child, you had a room of your own with a door, mark privileged		
If you learned to speak English as a first language, mark privileged; if your first language was another language, mark marginalized		
If you were raised to believe people will assume your behavior is a reflection of your race as a whole, mark marginalized		
If you or either of your parents own a home, mark privileged		
If you are non-partnered, mark marginalized		
If you have worried that you might get paid less by your employer because of your sex, mark marginalized		
If you do not have to consider if a workplace, restaurant or friend's home is physically accessible to you, mark privileged		
If you have to worry about being hurt or harassed when holding your partner's hand in public, mark marginalized		
If the religious or cultural holidays you celebrate are recognized as official holidays by most schools and government agencies, mark privileged		
If your elected or appointed officials are comprised primarily of people of your race, mark privileged		

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Social Positions: Privileged or Marginalized? (continued)

Situation	Privileged	Marginalized
If you worry about racial profiling by the police because of your race, mark marginalized		
If you and/or your family walk into your synagogue and are accepted as Jewish on sight, mark privileged		
If, when you are told about our national heritage or about “civilization,” you are shown that people of your race made it what it is, mark privileged		
If you have to worry about a member of your family being deported, mark marginalized		
If you are never asked to speak for all the people of your racial group, mark privileged		
If you cannot find experiences and images that you can relate to and faces that look similar to your family in Jewish newspapers and magazines, mark marginalized		
If you need legal or medical help and cannot be sure that your race will be a barrier, mark marginalized		
If you cannot be sure that your children will be given curricular materials that include their race, mark marginalized		
If people question whether you’re a man or a woman, mark marginalized		
If, when growing up, there were 15 or more books in your family’s home, mark privileged		
If whether you use checks, credit cards or cash, you can count on your skin color not working against the appearance of financial responsibility, mark privileged		
Your gender identity is the same as your assigned sex at birth, mark privileged		
If you are never asked “how” you are Jewish, mark privileged		

Compiled from the following sources:

Shelly Tochluk, author of *Witnessing Whiteness*, Handout 5.2, www.witnessingwhiteness.com (rev. 12/09); Glenn Singleton and Curtis Linton, *Courageous Conversations about Race* (Corwin 2005), pp.187-8; and “White-Ashkenazi Awareness Checklist: Examining Privilege,” Union of Reform Judaism, Audacious Hospitality: Jews of Color Educational Resource Module.