

Social Positions: Advantaged or Disadvantaged?

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

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

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Social Positions: Advantaged or Disadvantaged? (continued)

Situation	Advantaged	Disadvantaged
If you and/or your family walk into your synagogue and are accepted as Jewish on sight, mark advantaged		
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 advantaged		
If you worry about a member of your family being deported, mark disadvantaged		
If you are never asked to speak for all the people of your racial group, mark advantaged		
If you cannot find experiences and images that you can relate to and faces that look like your family in Jewish newspapers and magazines, mark advantaged		
If you need legal or medical help and cannot be sure that your race will be a barrier, mark disadvantaged		
If you cannot be sure that your children will be given curricular materials that include their race, mark disadvantaged		
If people question whether you’re a man or a woman, mark disadvantaged		
If, when growing up, there were 15 or more books in your family’s home, mark advantaged		
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 advantaged		
If you are never asked “how” you are Jewish, mark advantaged		

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.