Privilege Survey Assignment:

For this assignment, you will be asked to complete the Privilege Survey below and then write a brief essay reflecting on your answers. The essay should be 300 to 500 typed words (double-spaced) using college-level English.

Please place an X beside each statement that is basically true for you.

Sexuality Privilege
1. I have formalized or could formalize my love relationship legally through marriage and receive the benefits that accompany marriage.
2. I can move about in public without fear of being harassed or physically attacked because of my sexuality.
3. I do not have to fear that if my family or friends find out about my sexual orientation there will be economic, emotional, physical or psychological consequences.
4. If I want to, I can easily find a religious community that will not exclude me for my sexuality.
5. No one questions the “normality” of my sexuality or believes my sexuality was “caused” by psychological trauma, sin, or abuse.
6. People don't ask why I “chose” my sexual orientation.
7. I can go for months without me or anyone else referring explicitly to my sexuality.
8. I easily can find sex education literature for couples with my sexual orientation.

Class Privilege
1. I can be sure that my social class will be an advantage when I seek medical or legal help.
2. I am reasonably sure that I or my family will not have to skip meals because we cannot afford to eat.
3. I have a savings account with at least a month’s rent and bills set aside in case of emergency.
4. I have taken a vacation outside of the country within the past three years.
5. I have never been homeless or evicted from my place of living.
6. I have health insurance.
7. I don’t have to rely on public transportation to travel to work or school; I can afford my own vehicle.
8. The neighborhood I live in is relatively free of obvious drug use, prostitution, and violent crime.

Ability Privilege
1. I can assume that I will easily have physical access to any building.
2. I have never been taunted, teased, or socially ostracized due to a disability.
3. I can do well in challenging situation without being told what an inspiration I must be to other people of my ability status.
4. I can go shopping alone and expect to find appropriate accommodations to make the experience hassle-free.
5. I can hear what's going on around me without using an assistive device.
6. I can easily see the letters on this page.
7. I am reasonably certain that others do not think that my intelligence is lacking, just because of my physical status.
8. If I am fired, not given a raise, or not hired, I do not question if it had anything to do with my physical or mental ability.

Gender/Sex Privilege
1. If I have children and a successful career, few people will ask me how I balance my professional and private lives.
2. My elected representatives are mostly people of my sex. The more prestigious and powerful the elected position, the more this is true.
3. When I ask to see “the person in charge,” odds are I will face a person of my sex. The higher up in the organization the person is, the surer I can be.
4. I do not have to think about the message my wardrobe sends about my sexual availability.

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5. In general, I am not under much pressure to be thin or to worry about how people will respond to me if I’m overweight.
6. I will never be/was never expected to change my name upon marriage or questioned if I don’t change my name.
7. Most individuals portrayed as sexual objects in the media are not the same sex as I am.
8. Major religions in the world are led mainly by people of my sex.

Race Privilege
1. I can look at the mainstream media and find people of my race represented fairly and in a wide range of roles.
2. Schools in my community teach about my race and heritage and present it in positive ways throughout the year.
3. I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or closely watched by store employees because of my race.
4. I can take a job with an employer who believes in Affirmative Action without people thinking I got my job only because of my race.
5. When I use credit cards or checks for a face-to-face transaction, I don’t have to wonder whether someone will challenge my financial reliability because of my race.
6. I can do well in a challenging situation without being called a credit to my race.
7. I am never asked to speak for all the people of my racial group.
8. I can contemplate many options—social, political, or professional—without asking whether a person of my race would be accepted or allowed to do what I want to do.

Religious Privilege
1. I can assume that I will not have to work or go to school on my religious holidays.
2. I can be sure to hear music on the radio and watch specials on television that celebrate the holidays of my religion.
3. My religious views are reflected by the majority of government officials and political candidates.
4. Food that does not violate my religious practices can be easily found in any restaurant or grocery store.
5. Places to worship or practice my religion are numerous in my community.
6. Most people do not consider my religious practices to be “weird.”
7. Implicit or explicit references to religion where I work or go to school conform to my religious beliefs.
8. I do not need to worry about the ramifications of disclosing my religious identity to others.

Use the following questions to guide your writing of the essay.

1. What it was like to focus on privilege, rather than on our oppression as we often do in diversity activities?
2. Why is it important for us to be aware of the privilege aspect of our identities/experience? Why don’t we (have to) attend to it on a regular basis?
3. What does it mean for us to have multiple, intersecting identities—where we experience some privileges (around some identities) AND some oppression (around others)? What insight can this give us in connecting with others?
Week 12 Assignment – Cultural Diversity and Social Awareness

Scoring rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A (90 – 100%)</th>
<th>B (80 – 89%)</th>
<th>C (70 – 79%)</th>
<th>D/F (&lt; 70%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exceeds Expectations</td>
<td>Meets as Expected</td>
<td>Meets Minimally</td>
<td>Does Not Meet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignment is not only complete, follows all directions, and meets all goals, but excels in several ways. It’s easy to tell the student was engaged and put forth the effort needed to perform well.</td>
<td>The assignment is complete, follows directions, and meets all or almost all goals. Effort and engagement is often above average. There are no major flaws. In some ways, the assignment may exceed expectations.</td>
<td>The assignment fails substantially in either completeness, following directions, or meeting goals, but meets or exceeds expectations in all other ways. Effort and engagement will, at the minimum, be evident, though assignments may both meet only minimally while showing evidence of strong effort.</td>
<td>The assignment is less than two-thirds complete, shows near or complete disregard for the directions, or fails to meet most of the stated goals for the assignment. Little or no evidence of the effort or engagement required for success.</td>
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- To be complete the paper should include:
  - Full discussion of how it felt to focus on privilege instead of oppression
  - Full discussion of why it is important to be aware of our privilege and why we don’t have to pay attention to it on a regular basis
  - Full discussion of what it means to have multiple, intersecting identities and what insight this gives us in connecting with others

* Note: Feel free to edit the list of privileges to fit the context in which you are using the exercise (e.g., according to participants’ characteristics, or based on points you’d like to stress)