

Handout: Examples of Ableist Privilege

<p>I can be pretty sure that my neighbors in such a location will be neutral or pleasant to me.</p>	<p>I can criticize our government and talk about how much I fear its policies and behavior without being seen as a freeloader.</p>
<p>I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I can get into and around the shops, will be served, can reach merchandise, and can use the restrooms...</p>	<p>I can be pretty sure that if I ask to talk to "the person in charge," I will be facing a person who looks like me.</p>
<p>I can turn on the television or open the front page of the paper and see people who look like me widely represented</p>	<p>I can easily buy posters, postcards, picture books, greeting cards, dolls, toys, and children's magazines featuring people who look like me.</p>
<p>When I am told about our national heritage or about "civilization," I am shown that people who look like me are part of what made it what it is.</p>	<p>I can go home from most meetings of organizations I belong to feeling somewhat tied in, rather than isolated, out-of-place, outnumbered, unheard, held at a distance, or feared.</p>
<p>I can be sure that my children will be given curricular materials that testify to the existence of people who look like me.</p>	<p>I can take a job with an affirmative-action employer without having coworkers on the job suspect that I got it because of my having a label of disability.</p>
<p>Whether I use checks, credit cards, or cash, I can count on my physical appearance not to work against the appearance of financial reliability.</p>	<p>I can choose public accommodation without fearing that people who look like me cannot get in or will be mistreated in the places I have chosen.</p>

<p>I can arrange to protect my children most of the time from people who don't think I am capable of being a parent.</p>	<p>I can be sure that if I need legal or medical help, my appearance will not work against me.</p>
<p>I can swear, or dress in second-hand clothes, or not answer letters, without having people attribute these choices to the pitifulness, the poverty, or the incapacity of people who look like me.</p>	<p>If my day, week, or year is going badly, I need not ask of each negative episode or situation whether it has ableist overtones.</p>
<p>I can do well in a challenging situation without being called a "credit" to people who look like me.</p>	