



Class Privilege “Walk” (Wendy R. Williams)

I’ll read each statement. If the statement has ever been true, count it as an “agree.”

- *1. I do not have any debt.
- *2. I can choose what times and/or days to go into work.
- 3. I have been required to wear a uniform at my place of work.
- 4. I have shared a bedroom with a sibling or family member.
- *5. The neighborhood around my home is safe.
- *6. My high school had plenty of resources, like books and sports equipment.
- 7. I had to go through a metal detector to enter my school.
- 8. I came home to an empty house after school because one or more of my parents were still working.
- *9. I have never worried about having enough money to pay rent or a bill.
- 10. I have used food stamps or an EBT card.
- *11. If I have a job interview, I have appropriate clothing to wear.
- *12. I can take vacations when and where I want.
- *13. I have good medical and hospital care.
- *14. I have inherited money or property.
- *15. If I break or lose something, I can replace it easily.
- 16. I have contributed my own money to family bills.
- *17. I can hire someone to do the tasks I don’t want to do (e.g., housework, yardwork, car maintenance, etc.).
- *18. I have always had a home to sleep in at night.
- *19. I have never had to skip a meal because of lack of money to buy food.
- 20. I have had a family member ask me for a loan.
- *21. I will be the first person in my family to graduate college.
- 22. I have lied about my family’s financial situation because I was afraid of rejection.
- 23. I have not gone to the doctor because I was not sure how I would pay for it.
- *24. I have used a social connection to get a job or advance my career.
- 25. I have worn clothes handed down from a sibling or other family member.
- 26. I have had to rely on walking or public transportation to go anywhere I needed.
- 27. I have missed an important holiday, birthday or family event because I had to work.
- *28. If my car broke down, I have the money in my account right now to repair or replace it.
- *29. I have friends and family who can bail me out of most financial situations.
- *30. I grew up in a house with more than 50 books.
- 31. One of my parents was laid off or out of work for a period of time, not by choice.
- *32. I attended a private school (not on a scholarship).
- *33. I attended a summer camp (not on a scholarship).
- 34. I have received free/reduced lunch at school.
- *35. I have never had to wait for a sale to buy something I wanted.
- *36. I can anticipate my retirement years without financial anxiety.
- 37. I have gone without getting my teeth, vision, or hearing checked or fixed because I wasn’t able to afford it.

For each *, ask students who “agree” to step forward.

For each item without a *, ask students who “agree to take a step backwards

Larger Discussion

- 1) **What different aspects that make up social class did you notice through the questions that were asked? What is class?** [material resources, psychological understandings, social capital, power to control situations—access to privilege]
- 2) **What class do you self-define as right now? On what basis do you make that definition?** [middle-class—my education, health insurance, retirement, savings, job that is unlikely to disappear (steady income)]
- 3) **What is privilege? What is class privilege?** [privilege is unearned advantage which confers power in a given society. Class privilege then is unearned advantage because of my social class status]
- 4) **Name some examples where wealthy people receive certain advantages – either unconsciously or consciously – that poor people do not receive. Are these examples of class privilege institutional or interpersonal?** [Tax code—owning a house—institutional] [Cared for teeth—interpersonal]
- 5) **How can people with class privilege affect society in ways people without privilege cannot?** [Shape the discourse—through politics, media, what books are published **what is taught in classes**]
- 6) **Why should wealthy people work to address class privilege?** [It is more expensive to have unhealthy people—workers who can't work. If argue need people to clean toilets, if are too weak to do so then society collapses]