

## Reflecting on privileges

This list of 30 statements is meant to provoke thought among pre-service teachers. The list contains statements about privileges, of which many might be self-evident to the students, something that they never need to think about. Through this assignment they need to position themselves in the world of privileges. After reflecting on their own lives, the assignment allows them to view the world from the viewpoint of someone with less privileges.

### The assignment is:

Give the 30 statements to your students to read through. After they have individually considered their own privileges, they should share their thoughts and feelings with a pair or a small group and try to emphasize with someone less privileges.

Read the statements through. Mark an **x** every time you answer yes.

1. Your (cultural or religious) holiday is always pre-marked in red on the calendar.
2. No one has asked you if you are a boy or a girl.
3. Your chances of getting a job are not worse because of your name or your mother tongue.
4. Your mother tongue, religion and culture are respected in your society.
5. You can travel wherever you want without having to find out if a bus, train or plane is accessible.
6. You can book a trip to most countries in the world without having to worry about visas first.
7. You don't have to worry about being stopped by the police.
8. You can buy a band-aid the same colour as your skin.
9. No one has made derogatory comments about your sexual orientation or gender.
10. You can go to public swimming pools without having to think about whether you are going to the women's or men's changing room.
11. If you go to the doctor, the bank or the authorities, you can usually be confident that you will not be belittled because of your language, skin colour, clothes, size or age.
12. People hardly ever look at you suspiciously in the street.
13. You have not tried to change your speech, dialect or behaviour to gain respect.
14. When you go to the shop, you don't have to worry about being followed by a camera or a security guard.
15. You have not been paid less because of your age, gender or ethnicity.

16. You can show your romantic feelings to a loved one in public without fear of ridicule or violence.
17. You feel comfortable with the image that the media and popular culture gives of your identification group.
18. You can find people like yourself in textbooks and materials and other images on school walls and in school premises.
19. People like you are in academic professions and in leadership positions in society.
20. Your language and speech are respected in school and in society.
21. You have not started school in a language that is foreign to you.
22. Your language skills and your ability to cope and manage in a variety of languages are valued in your school, workplace or society.
23. If you are a high school graduate or university student, you are not the first in your family.
24. People like you and those close to you are spoken about with respect in school and in society.
25. No one has asked you where you really come from.
26. You or your parents have not experienced forced migration.
27. You move around without having to think about stairs or thresholds.
28. When people talk about mental health problems, they are not talking about you.
29. You have not experienced financial difficulties.
30. You have lived most of your childhood in a two-parent family.

The more **Xs** you get, the more privileged you are. Reflect on these and try to empathize with someone with much less privileges. Share your thoughts and feelings with a pair or a small group.

#### References:

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