Privilege Exercise
(participants can stand up or raise hand if statements apply to their lives)

General
1. My ancestors came to the US by choice, they were not forced to come.
2. I have never been called names because of my race or ethnicity
3. Because of my class,
4. my gender,
5. my sexual orientation.
6. There were more than 50 books in my house when I grew up.
7. I attended a private school or summer camp.
8. My family owned our own house.
9. Schools in my community teach about the culture, heritage, and important individuals of my race and present it in positive ways throughout the year.
10. … about the culture, heritage, and individuals of my same sex.
11. … of my same sexuality.
12. My parents grew up in the United States.

Sexuality Privilege
13. I have formalized or could formalize my love relationship legally through marriage and receive the benefits that accompany marriage.
14. I can move about in public without fear of being harassed or physically attacked because of my sexuality.
15. 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.
16. If I want to, I can easily find a religious community that will not exclude me for my sexuality.
17. I do not have to fear being fired or discriminated against in my workplace because of my sexual orientation.
Religious Privilege
18. I can assume that I will not have to work or go to school on my religious holidays.
19. My religious views are reflected by a majority of government officials and political candidates.
20. Food that does not violate my religious practices can be easily found in any restaurant or grocery store.
21. Most people do not consider my religious practices to be “weird.”
22. I do not need to worry about the ramifications of disclosing my religious identity to others.

Ability Privilege
23. I can assume that I will easily have physical access to any building.
24. I can go shopping alone and expect to find appropriate accommodations to make the experience hassle-free.
25. I can hear what’s going on around me without using an assistive device.
26. I can easily see the letters on the overhead.
27. I am reasonably certain that others do not think that my intelligence is lacking, just because of my physical status.

Class Privilege
28. Each student in my high school classroom had their own textbook
29. I am reasonably sure that I or my family will not have to skip meals because we cannot afford to eat.
30. I have taken a vacation outside of this country.
31. I have taken a vacation outside of Ohio.
32. I never have to worry about being able to afford medication for myself or my family.
33. The neighborhood I grew up in is relatively free of obvious drug use, prostitution, and violent crime.
34. I have or expect to inherit money or property
35. I was taken to art galleries and museum’s by my parents
36. I have regular dentist visits and teeth cleanings
37. I am not the first person in my family to go to college.
Race Privilege
38. I can look at the mainstream media and find people of my race represented fairly and in a wide range of roles.
39. When I am told about our national heritage or about “civilization” I am shown that people of my color made it what it is.
40. 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.
41. 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.
42. I am never asked to speak for all the people of my racial group.
43. 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.

Gender/Sex Privilege
44. If I have children and a successful career, few people will ask me how I balance my professional and private lives.
45. My elected representatives are mostly people of my sex. The more prestigious and powerful the elected position, the more this is true.
46. 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.
47. I do not have to think about the message my wardrobe sends about my sexual availability.
48. I do not worry about walking alone at night

Questions:
• What are your thoughts and feelings about this exercise? Were you surprised? Why?
• Initial feelings and thoughts about this activity?
• Were there any questions that you didn’t understand or that came as a surprise to you?
• What are some of the long-term effects of some seemingly small things on the lists? Like having regular dental exams and teeth cleanings?