

DAY 3: What is Privilege?

“For those of us called white, whiteness simply is. Whiteness becomes, for us, the unspoken, uninterrogated norm, taken for granted, much as water can be taken for granted by a fish.”

— [Tim Wise](#), *White Like Me*

Privilege is the unearned social, political, economic, and psychological benefits of membership in a group that has institutional and structural power ([source](#)). There are many types of privilege that different groups have in the US. We commonly hear about privilege because of race or gender, but privilege also exists for different groups based on religion, sexuality, ability, class, education level. Read more about [5 common types of privilege](#).

Having privilege can give you advantages in life, but having privilege is not a guarantee of success.

Today's Challenge:

OPTION 1: Take this eye-opening [privilege self-assessment](#) by BuzzFeed to discover where you are on the spectrum.

OPTION 2: Watch this short, powerful BuzzFeed [video featuring a privilege walk](#). See how privilege shows up differently for this group of co-workers. *Note: this video may be triggering for some people of color.*

OPTION 3: Read University of Michigan student accounts of confronting privilege and dealing with discrimination in their lives and at school in Michigan Daily's [Michigan in Color](#) column.

OPTION 4: Watch this [video from Robin DiAngelo, author of White Fragility](#) about how racism isn't only individual acts of discrimination, it is a deeply embedded system that impacts all of our lives.

Share your reflections on today's topic on social media using the hashtag [#unitedforequity](#), [#miuwequitychallenge](#), [##uwwcequity](#) and tag [@uwwashtenaw](#).