

- 1.) I feel that I relate completely with what Peggy McIntosh said, obviously. No one is second-guessing me based solely on the color of my skin. No, it is distrusting me based solely on the color of my skin. No one speaks to me differently based on my skin color. For me, that's what stands out—being taken seriously. I feel like I have enough to fight against to make sure that people are taking me seriously if my skin color was part of that list, I'm not sure how to begin navigating that. When I worked in retail in the tiny, racist town I am from, I remember multiple occasions in which a person of color would come into the store and my manager would say, "Keep an eye on them," as soon as they entered the store. Also, just small jabs live, have statues standing of slave owners; for me, it's about respect.
- 2.) I think being born white made my entire childhood 100 times more bearable. As I mentioned, I grew up in the south in a tiny, small-minded town that has racist jokes stickered on the back of their car. In my school, grades K-12, there was ever only one person of color in attendance. And the racial slurs the kids would spew at him with a laugh caused his family to leave before he graduated. I don't think I could've survived something like that.
- 3.) I think, overall, my white privilege has given me comfort. I'm not always second-guessing everything based solely on my skin color. I don't walk into a room and not see someone who looks like me. There's no shortage of role models, like actors/singers/leaders. My white privilege, right, wrong or indifferent, allowed me to not really think about the color of my skin.
- 4.) The first thing that comes to mind is sitting down in a class and hearing an accent from the professor and immediately dreading that class a little more. I realize now, after my favorite professor had the heaviest accent, that a qualified professor is not less than because he/she has an accent I'm not familiar with.
- 5.) For me, the uncomfortable thing about my white privilege is that it's kind of inevitable. I work hard to assure that the people around me are safe and comfortable and respected, but there's always going to be this divide in society that makes it impossible for me not to benefit just from being born white.