Background and Analysis

Privilege has always been a controversial issue. The common misconception is that whatever someone has is because of their own doing, therefore the idea of privilege is without merit. But this viewpoint completely disregards the understanding that some people face more hurdles to get where they are than others. Consequentially, some people tend to achieve success over others. This is why men dominate leadership positions in renowned business over women (Zarya, 2017). This is why if an African American applies to a job with a similar or slightly worse resume to a white peer, the white peer will almost always get a callback over the African American applicant. This was shown by the study done by Bertrand and Mullainathan (Grusky et. al, 2011).

Privilege is difficult to talk about because if acknowledged, people tend to feel guilty about it. But the realization of one’s privilege doesn’t have to be met with guilt. Privilege is a global issue. Everyone has some advantages over someone else. Some privileges are innate like the ability to see and some privileges are societal like how men are perceived to be more hirable than women in a corporate job. The issue lies in the existences of societal privileges, of course, but innate privileges are not controllable. Thus, is important to acknowledge your privilege and use it help those without your privileges. Privilege is a global issue because it is the root of many issues surrounding discrimination. And like privilege, discrimination is a global issue that permeates every community is some form.
Breaking News

Privilege is an abstract issue prevalent in many areas. For example, in the 2016 elections it was called to attention as many Republicans and specifically, Trump supporters don’t believe white privilege exists, but most Democrats believe it does exist (Santus, 2017). The understanding of white privilege impacts how people react to police brutality, affirmative action, and other efforts to lessen white privilege. Just because people believe it doesn’t exist, doesn’t make the issue disappear. For example, currently a prominent issue in American politics is the NFL protests during the National Anthem. The issue has dwindled to discussions about free speech and respect for veterans while disregarding the reason for the initial protests. It is about racial inequality. And this brings light to idea of white privilege. Those who are against the protests argue that it is disrespectful to veterans, abusing the privilege of power that NFL players have, and is an unacceptable form of protest. Those who support this movement argue that it is not illegal and is a way to bring awareness and discussion (Jennings, 2017). While the NFL protests are central to America, racial inequality, and privileges given to one group of people over another group exists globally.

Recently, many universities have been sued for not complying to the Americans With Disabilities Act which displays the sometimes glossed over privilege abled people have over people with disabilities. It brings attention to the little things that help people move ahead like class videos to study or stairs to go from one class to another. But stairs are useless to someone who is wheelchair bound and class videos are useless to the deaf without captions (Wang, 2017). It is hard to be conscious of these forms of discrimination and even when it is brought to one’s attention many people don’t care or don’t want to be bothered because addressing the issue requires a lot of work. Another example of disability discrimination involves the specific case of
Jordan Gallacher who has been unemployed for three years despite having a college degree. On one occasion, he was told he was rejected because he was blind (Long, 2017). Any form of disability discrimination should me a reminder of the abled of their privilege and their duty to speak up for those whose voices are being suppressed.

**Details**

I want to propose an event that highlights everyone’s individual privilege in a manner that is public so we as a community are made aware that we are not alone in our disadvantages or our advantages. I hope this event will encourage people to speak up for others who may not be given the same platform they may have accessible. This mean that this event should be a step to encourage someone who is financially stable to be comfortable with that enough to use it to help someone who isn’t financially stable. Or allow men to acknowledge their privilege in the workforce and make conscious efforts to make the workforce more inclusive for women.

The event will be interactive. Each person will have a list of privileges in front of them that will be categorized and color coded. Each person will also receive string and beads. For each privilege they acknowledge they have, they should put a bead on their string. The color of the bead should correspond the color of the category the privilege was categorized in. This event is set to create a candid and honest conversation about our privileges. The event will be in the Hoosier Den on Thursday, October 19th from 5PM to 6PM. In front of each seat, a set of beads, string and a list of privileges should be placed. The list of privileges will have directions on them. Printing cost for this along with advertisements will be $6. Cost of beads and string will be around $15. Clean-up will require picking up all unused supplies.
Work Cited


