

# Reflections on Privilege and White Supremacy

How to do this activity:

**Step 1:** Read the Introduction & Definitions

**Step 2:** Watch the videos and read the zine

**Step 3:** Read and think about the Reflection Questions

## Step 1: Introduction & Definitions

Racism is very harmful to us and our communities. We see it in very obvious ways sometimes, but other times it is not so obvious. These videos and zine will explain some terms like “white supremacy”, “intersectionality” “privilege” and “systemic racism”. While these ideas can seem pretty complicated, we will give you some basic explanations of what they mean here. You can look at these definitions when you are writing your reflection activity.

*White supremacy* is a false belief that says that white people are better or more deserving than people of other races. It is based in the ideas of colonialism and slavery. It was justified for many years through race science, which scientists later found out to not be true. Many people still believe these ideas, and they can often lead them to treat people of other races very poorly.

*Intersectionality* is the idea that every person has an identity that is complicated. Our gender, our race, our religious beliefs, and how much money our family has can all affect the way we see the world. These things also affect how other people see us. Our identity is complicated. Our identity has a big influence on the negative and positive things we experience.

*Privilege* is a concept that you benefit from something based on who you are. If you are treated well for being a man, or being a white person, or being rich or any other thing that gives you advantages for who you are, you have privilege. Having privilege does not mean your life is not hard, or that you are a bad person. It means that society treats you better and you should be aware of that and do what you can to help others be treated fairly.

*Systemic Racism* means racism, or mistreatment of others based on their race, exists in many systems that we live with every day. These systems like jobs, school, housing, prison, police, and social life all have impacts on how successful we are. Systemic racism does not make things impossible for Black and Indigenous people of color, but it does make them harder, more dangerous and more unfair.

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## Step 2: Videos & Zine!

After you finish reading these definitions, there are four videos and one digital zine for you to watch and read! They are:

- Video 1: “Systemic Racism Explained” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrHIQIO\\_bdQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrHIQIO_bdQ)
- Video 2: “Understanding White Supremacy (And How to Defeat It)” <https://youtu.be/0gqQzbp5wk4>
- Video 3: “Kids Explain Intersectionality” <https://youtu.be/WzbADY-CmTs>
- Video 4: “What is Privilege?” <https://youtu.be/hD5f8GuNuGQ>
- Zine: “A Short Guide to the Far Right for Youth in the Portland Area” <https://ia601003.us.archive.org/15/items/YouthGuidePrint/YouthGuideWeb.pdf>

## Step 3: Reflection Questions

Read these questions and think about them. You can just think about them by yourself, you can talk about them with your family, or you can write out answers to them in your notebook!

Whatever feels best for you. After reading the zine and watching the videos:

- How do you think white supremacy hurts people?
- How do you think systemic racism hurts people?
- What does systemic racism look like in Portland?
- How do you see white supremacy in your school or in your friends?
- What privileges do you think you have? What privileges do you think you don't have?
- What was the most interesting thing you learned from the zine and videos?
- What did you already know, and what was new to you?
- For white youth:
  - What parts of white supremacy do you see in yourself or in your family?
  - What can you do to stop white supremacy when you see it?
- For BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) youth:
  - How have you been affected by white supremacy?
- What would a world without white supremacy or systemic racism look like?