

LET'S PLAY "WHITE-PRIVILEGED MONOPOLY!"



White privilege is real. So is generational, institutionalized racism. Nowhere is it more prevalent than in our public school system. But often, those who make the rules have a hard time seeing how those rules can limit access to opportunity for others. While these issues are nothing to make light of, sometimes you need a hands-on approach to help white students or family members understand their privilege. We hope this example is of benefit to those who wish to approach these sensitive, yet undeniable, issues with an open heart and open mind.

RULES:

Set up your GAME BOARD. Give yourself cash, properties and hotels and houses, totaling \$18,000. Your opponent gets the traditional \$1,500 to start. This 12:1 disparity represents the median amount of wealth transferred from whites to their heirs, compared with African Americans.*

There are two sets of CARDS. Educational injustices experienced by students of color go in the FAT CHANCE pile. (Visit Dear JCPS to print your own cards.) Tax breaks, stock market gains, work bonuses, opportunities due to "who you know," etc. go in the PRIVILEGED COMMUNITY CHEST.

They choose their TOKEN (the IRON, because it's the only one that's left), and the game commences.

When they notice that the board is not set up equitably, they complain. You respond with, "That's in the past. We're all equal now. Let's play!" You roll and proceed to move forward the correct number of spaces.

When a player lands on a DRAW A CARD SQUARE, you draw from PRIVILEGED COMMUNITY CHEST. Your opponent draws from the FAT CHANCE pile. These distinctly different stacks of cards represent the systemic disparities still in place from generations of targeting, profiling and redlining of the black community reflected in policies and norms throughout society today.

When your opponent lands on YOUR PROPERTIES, they pay you RENT. If you own all properties in a COLOR GROUP, their rent is DOUBLED. When you land on THEIR PROPERTIES, same thing. Except, they probably don't own any properties, you bought most of them (or inherited them) before they got there.

Eventually, they will inevitably land on one of your HOUSES or HOTELS and they won't have enough cash to continue. If they happen to have purchased a property, they have the option to MORTGAGE their property to the bank in order to stay in the game. However, they only get half the LOAN AMOUNT on the back of the card.

When your opponent runs out of cash, they have to GO TO JAIL, while you continue to roll the dice until all assets have been acquired. If they complain about any of the rules, you say, "That was one of the rules that was decided on before you got here. Don't like it? Get here earlier next time."

OBJECT OF THE GAME:

To inspire whites to understand their privilege enough to research it and develop talking points so they can respond to others who try to marginalize it by saying racism or privilege don't exist, and to commit to create equitable learning opportunities for our children of color. Please sign our oath of commitment.

Credits: Created by Gay Adelman. Inspired by Shelton McElroy and Jane Elliott.

**Economic Policy Institute, 2/13/17, (<http://www.epi.org/blog/the-racial-wealth-gap-how-african-americans-have-been-shortchanged-out-of-the-materials-to-build-wealth/>)*

