

Basketball Chairs

Materials:

- 8 chairs
- A piece of paper to crumple up to make a ball
- Printed cards assigning identities
- A ribbon

Instructions:

1. Hang up the Big 8+ poster or refer to the handout and review the content.
2. Line up 8 chairs in a row, one behind the other. Explain that the front chair represents a person with all Big 8+ privileged identities. The chair in the back represents a person who has lesser privilege on nearly all of the identities.
3. Have the facilitator(s) sit in the chair(s) that best represents their identities.
 - For example, if I'm female and all my other identities are on the privilege side of the poster, I would sit in the second chair from the front.
 - If someone is a person of color, lower income and has a disability they may be sitting many seats back. The further back you are sitting the more you can see others backpacks/privileges. Refer to activity one and explain the backpack metaphor fully without doing that activity. The further up you are sitting the less you can see those behind you and their backpacks (privilege). This is why when we have more privileges we need to work hard to stay aware of them. Even if you can't see your privilege/backpack, others behind you can.
4. Cut up and lay out the printed identity cards below. You can also add other cards. Ask each participant to pick one identity card. Now ask them to talk over together where each of them think they might sit in the row. Given the intersectionality of each card, where they sit is complex. It is not easy to decide and certainly not a perfect way to represent identities. There is no right answer on where to sit. The point is to have a good discussion about where and why for the chairs and identities. Lead a discussion about how it feels to sit in that chair. Who can you see and who can you not see in that chair?
 - What are you feeling and thinking as you sit in that chair?
5. While they are sitting in the chairs, use a crushed up piece of paper to represent a basketball and put a trash can in front of the first chair to represent the basket. Have the participants take a shot at the basket with the paper ball from the various places the participants are sitting. Discuss how the persons further back have more barriers and obstacles and the persons

in the front have less. Some people have a better shot in life depending on where they are sitting. Our seats don't determine if we will make a basket but they do give us a better or harder shot.

6. Have the group discuss ways to give everyone a better shot by removing obstacles and barriers (stereotypes and disparities). Many times participants will suggest leaning over so the person in the back has less obstacles. They might suggest assisting the shot and cheering others on. They might suggest moving the basket to the middle (institutional change). They may sit sideways in the chairs to be sure everyone can see everyone else.
7. Now have 2 people hold a ribbon in front of the chairs and say "this is the human race ready set go." Some start further back and some closer to the front. We need to work towards an equal world where everyone starts in the same place for the human race. This represents that, just like the activity with basketball, life can be easier or harder based on where you sit. It also represents the privilege and oppression of the human race as an actual race.
8. Now have the chairs all face forward, with the chairs side by side (not in a row), and again have 2 people hold the ribbon for the human race and say "ready set go." In this scenario, life is more fair and just. We all start in the same place. Let's all work for this human race in all that we do in our lives.

<p>I am a white male and use a wheelchair. I am a graphic designer.</p>	<p>I am heterosexual. I am Afro-Latinx. I am an engineer. I'm female.</p>	<p>I am white. I am male. I am christian. I am a doctor. I have no student debt.</p>
<p>I have to remind people of my pronouns. I am non-binary. I am in 12th grade. I am good at sports. I am Native American.</p>	<p>I am from a family of Asian descent. I wear a hijab. I'm in 3rd grade. I love to read.</p>	<p>I'm the first black, female and gay mayor in my city. I have a service dog.</p>
<p>I am non binary. I am a writer. I'm 75 years old. I'm deaf.</p>	<p>My family can't afford a car. I have a part time job. I am a junior in high school. I am in the school play.</p>	<p>I am undocumented. I am a senior in high school. I work a full time job to support my family. I live with my aunt and my parents live in my home country.</p>