Cut off: Abandonment and household oppressions

Think of the mechanisms of power and control that parents have over children. What kinds of things can parents **do** to children when they want them to obey?

What options do little kids have when parents abuse their power? Who can protect children from their own parents? What is that process like for the kids?

stop here

What does age have to do with these oppressions? Why is it different being kicked out at 14 than at 19?

What would **YOUR** life look like today if **YOU** had been kicked out at 15?

Who would you have called? Pick a NAME.

stop here

Home is a really vulnerable space where identity is formed and some of the strongest bonds are built. What are some of the impacts of facing oppression from the people closest to you and during the years when you're shaping your identity?

oppression, it's a way of convincing them that they **deserve** to be treated like that. Talk about the impact of abuse, shame, and self-loathing, and internalized homophobia. What if your partner had a lot of internalized homophobia?

Internalized oppression is a control mechanism used to insure that target groups participate in their own

stop here

Having a family that faces the same oppression you do ( ) can give you a built-in support group, and teach you coping mechanisms. **Compare the family support** in the short TV video on racism and the article about the teenager who recorded the TV show.

Home can be a safe place to rest from outside oppressions, but if you don't share an identity with people in your household, home may not provide relief. **Talk about the costs of not having a safe place to rest**.

If nobody in your family shares your identity, you may not know anyone like yourself. What are some of the problems that come from being isolated from ALL of the people who share your oppression?

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What kinds of support do most adults usually get from the families they were born into?

Can you become an "orphan" as an adult? What would be the emotional and logistical impacts of losing your entire nuclear and extended family overnight?

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When people are not born into a supportive environment, they may need to create a new network, called a chosen family. Talk about the amount of time and energy you'd need to invest into creating that network.

Once the chosen family is created, do they have the same legal rights as a blood family? How does that put people at risk?

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Think of the role that family members could take in helping each other stand against oppression. What strategies for solidarity can you imagine within a family? Could boycotting work? Sharing?
Could siblings stand together against parents?

How can you keep the relationship, but shift the power dynamics? Can you go on strike against your parents? How is it different than striking against your boss? What strategies for resistance can you imagine within a family?

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💔 **<u>Cut-off, familial oppressor:</u>** Identities that are NOT passed down through generations, family ruptures. **Typical patterns:** Internalization works differently when your loved ones are the ones inflicting the pain, especially during formative years. Home is a particularly vulnerable space to power abuse and absolute, cruel control. Can interrupt life cycles and care patterns as families abandon their own. People may risk being orphaned as an adult and lose their network. Isolation: You may not know people with your identity, or be cut off from them. May never have had a conversation about own oppression, or have a word for it, and have few strategies for managing it. May need to invest significant effort into re-creating a close support network.

Talk about the similarities between this oppression and the ones on the map that have a broken heart
Consider some of the life-cycle points on the list

Birth
Early childhood
Entering education system
Middle school

High school
Participating in sports
Developing a hobby
Preparing for college
Entering college
College graduation
First jobs
Changing jobs

Promotions
Difficulties at work
Firing
Professional contacts
School loans
Mortgage loans
Support from parents
Support- extended family

Dating – early years
Discovering sexuality
Marriage
Connection in-laws
Pregnancy

Adoption
Early parenthood
Child rearing
Divorce
Custody issues

Economic child support
Moving to a new city/country
Inheritance
Elder care
Aging

Illness
Accidents
Death

Explore how heterosexist and cissexist privilege helps people in their everyday lives. Think through **many specific** examples (look at the list to come up with examples)



When does privilege pay off?

Think of crucial points in a lifetime:

Birth
Early childhood
Entering education system
Progress through elementary
Middle school
Entering high school
Progress through high school
Participating in sports
Developing a hobby
Participating in arts
Preparing for college
Entering college
Progress through college
College graduation
First jobs
Changing jobs
Promotions
Difficulties at work
Layoffs
Firing
Professional contacts
Taking out school loans
Taking out car loans
Taking out house loans
Caring and affection at home
Emotional support from parents
Acceptance- extended family
Dating – early years
Discovering sexuality
Marriage
Connection spouse - family
Pregnancy
Adoption
Early parenthood
Child rearing
Divorce
Custody issues
Economic child support
Moving to a new city/country
Illness
Accidents
Deaths

Think of times you interact with institutions:

How often you show your ID
Your passport
Judicial system
Elections/voting
Church/religion
Airport
Immigration