Week 18: Privilege

Not ready to talk about privilege? Check out this video:
Why Does Privilege Make People So Angry? | Decoded | MTV News

Anti Racism work begins with self reflection and digging into how the different aspects of our identity can give us privilege or how they can be marginalizing. You can't be an anti-racist if you don't understand how you benefit from racist structures and institutions.

So what exactly is privilege? Here's a quick video about privilege. Privilege does not mean that your life is easy. It does mean that our society has been built to make things easier for certain identities. You may have some identities that bring you closer to power and some that keep you farther away from it.

Choose the best descriptor of yourself for each section on this Wheel of Privilege. Which of your identities bring you closer to the center where power lies?

If you've never had to think about certain aspects of your identity, it probably means that that part of your identity gives you privilege. For example, if you've never had to think about climbing stairs, you are probably able-bodied. If you've never had to worry about which bathroom to use, you are probably cis-gender. If you've never had trouble finding a band-aid to match your skin, you are probably White or light-skinned.

Checking one's privileges is not about taking on guilt, but about acknowledging and confronting societal and institutional discrimination. Now that you can recognize the privileges that you do have, how can you use that power to be anti-racist? Next week: How to be a co-conspirator!

Resources:
Check Yourself: Why Self-Reflecting on Privilege Matters (EduTopia)
What is Privilege?(United Way)