

A BASIC TOOL

Defining WSP*

*White Skin Privilege

Helpful History

The request for definitions of white skin privilege has been heard throughout our educator's network. That is why these definitions are being provided.

Uses

Combine these WSP definitions with Appetizer One to make a handout to use during your presentations.

Defining WSP

The following statements are all defining statements:

- ☞ White skin privilege is the privilege bestowed on white people by the institutions with which we all interact.
- ☞ White skin privilege is an institutionally based, historical set of advantages granted to those who, by race, resemble those who have historically controlled the institutions.
- ☞ White skin privilege was historically and intentionally established.
- ☞ White skin privilege provides the cultural power that enables white people to define their experience(s), idea(s), and beliefs as normal and human.
- ☞ White skin privilege is bestowed prenatally and we cannot give it away; no matter how much we do not want it, it is ours.
- ☞ White skin privilege functions independently. It discounts the work, comments, and behavior of an individual person of color and her ability to alter her future, based on assessments made without the person of color's input.
- ☞ White skin privilege enables white people to see themselves not as members of a power collective but as individuals.