

# Engaging Meeting/Kick-Off Idea



## Activity:

### Privilege Walk

## Audience:

Small Employee Groups (10-30 people)

**\*\*Note:** This exercise can be very triggering, so do not do this activity unless you are sure you have plenty of time to debrief and reflect what individuals experienced during the privilege walk.

## What is the Impact:

The point of this exercise is not to make any of us embarrassed about the privileges we have received, but to make all of us aware of how privilege can promote different outcomes in our culture. Whether we are highly privileged, moderately privileged, or lack privilege, it is possible to behave in ways that level the playing field for everyone.

## How it Works:

- Every statement addresses some small privilege that is based on economic status. Participants in the activity start by standing together in a straight line. After each statement, participants act accordingly, and the statements progress, people who started out in the same line will divide into different locations in this room. Similarly, small privileges in society place individuals in different places in society. Utilize this activity to spark discussion about how privilege and systemic issues impact people for their entire lives.

## (Statement examples)

1. If you have completed high school, take one step forward.
2. If you were raised in a single-parent household, take one step backward.

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3. If you went on family trips as a child, take a step forward.
4. If you had a family car as a kid, take a step forward.
5. If you know a family member or friend who has received government assistance in any capacity, take a step backward.
6. If your parents worked nights and weekends to support your family, take one step backward.
7. If your parents or guardians attended college, take one step forward.
8. If you had more than 25 books in your household growing up, take one step forward
9. If you were raised in an area with crime and drug activity, take one step backward.
10. If you attended private school or summer camp, take one step forward.
11. If you were embarrassed about your clothes or house while growing up, take one step backward.
12. If you believe that you were denied employment because of economic hardship, take 1 step backward.
13. If your family had health insurance, take one step forward.
14. If you came from a supportive family environment, take one step forward.
15. If there have been times in your life when you skipped a meal because there was no food in the house, take one step backward.