

Assignment I: Map an Institution in Your Daily Life
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10 points

Social oppression and privilege happen in our everyday lives. We may not even know or acknowledge we are being mistreated. We also may not know when we are being treated more favorably than others. We need to understand the larger social context to understand the social patterns that affect our own lives and our clients' lives.

In this assignment, you will pick a particular institution in your daily life to examine whether you experience oppression, privilege, or both.

A) Identify an important institution in your daily life. (1 point) Some examples include:

home/family; school; store; neighborhood; work; medical facility; church, mosque, sangha, temple, or other religious institution; sports team, club, chorus, volunteer group, dance troupe; public park; gym; etc.

B) Describe how you are treated by that institution in complete sentences. (6 points) You can write it as a story, as a list, as an essay, etc. You can also focus on a single incident. Include:

- where it is physically located;
- what you see, hear, smell, taste, touch;
- your feelings, thoughts, and bodily sensations;
- what is happening to make you feel like you do or don't belong;
- examples of being favored by society as a whole;
- examples of being discriminated against individually or by society as a whole;
- the people involved;
- typical things that are said, assumptions and stereotypes that are made; etc.

C) Analyze how you are treated. (2 points) (At least 3 complete sentences.)

- Identify and explain what kinds of stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination or systemic oppression or privilege you face in the institution. Include as many as apply: race, gender, sexuality, economic class, dis/ability, immigration status, language, religion, etc. Remember that anyone can hold stereotypes and prejudices; discrimination depends on someone having social power over someone else, and systemic oppression and privilege depend on a social identity group at the level of society having power over another social identity group at the level of society.

Required:

1. Minimum 600 words (about 2 pages double spaced).
2. Spelling and grammar count. (1 point)

Extra credit: Include an image, drawing, statistic, song, video link, etc. that helps show how you are treated by the institution (2 points)