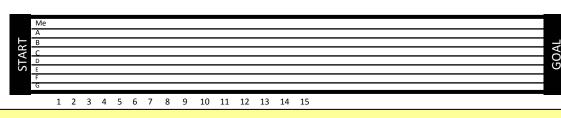
The Level Playing Field - Adapted from Paul Kivel

This exercise seeks to raise awareness of our privilege in terms of race, class, sexual orientation, physical ability and gender. It's not aimed at instilling guilt, but at questioning the assumption that our achievement occurs on a level playing field.

| | 1. It has always been legal for members of your race to vote, own property, and pass on wealth. | | 8. When you start a career, you won't have to worry about balancing your paying job with house-cleaning, cooking, childcare, or other caretaking | |
|--|---|----|--|--|
| | 2. Your parent(s) have only needed to work one job each (or less) in order to provide for your basic needs (enough food, adequate clothes, stable shelter, safety). | | 9. It is expected that you would go to college.10. You don't need to research whether there are | |
| | 3. You've had access to museums, lessons, plays, summer camps, or extra-curricular activities growing up. | | ramps, wide enough doorways, or handrails when you go to the movies, the mall or a restaurant. | |
| | 4. When you watch TV, read your U.S. History textbook, or read a magazine, you can easily find your race and culture reflected. | | 11. You generally feel safe hiking alone in the woods, or when holding hands with someone you are dating. | |
| | 5. You or your parents have never had to use public transportation to run errands, attend school, or get to work. | | 12. When you get sick, your parents could leave work to get you without fear of getting fired.13. You grew up in a two-parent, rather than sin- | |
| | 6. You don't have to think about sexism, racism, classism, heterosexism, and ableism every day. You can decide when and where you deal with it. | | gle-parent household. 14. When you develop a health problem, you can have it treated without worrying about paying your | |
| | 7. You've never been the victim of, or personally witnessed, a violent crime. | | other bills. 15. You've never experienced skipping a meal, or going away from a meal hungry, because your family didn't have the money to buy enough food. | |
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| | xercise #2:Where do you start on the playing field?Place yourself on the graph below. | D. | C. Beth, an accountant who is a lesbianD. Caitlyn, a third grader at Jefferson Elementary, a St. | |
| 2. How many more barriers do other groups face?Estimate where each person might be (how many "true" boxes this person might check): | | E | Louis public school E. James, a 25 year old African-American businessman living in Webster Groves | |
| A. John, a high school sophomore whose father earns \$9.50/hour as a cook | | | F. Juliana, a recent immigrant from a Somali refugee camp | |



B. Mary, a 35 year old medical researcher with a spinal cord

injury.



G. Angela, a 9 month old whose mother lives in North

St. Louis City and works full time at a gas station