

## COLOR LINE EXERCISE

---

Score "4" if the statement is always true for you  
Score "3" if the statement is frequently true for you  
Score "2" if the statement is sometimes true for you  
Score "1" if the statement is rarely true for you  
Score "0" if the statement is never true for you

### Because of my race or color...

Score

1. I can be in the company of people of my race most of the time. \_\_\_\_\_
2. If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure of renting or purchasing housing in an area I can afford and in which I would want to live. \_\_\_\_\_
3. I can be pretty sure that my neighbors in such a location will be neutral or pleasant to me. \_\_\_\_\_
4. I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed. \_\_\_\_\_
5. I can turn on the television or open the front page of the paper and see people of my race widely and positively represented. \_\_\_\_\_
6. When I am told about our national heritage or about "civilization," I am shown that people of my race made it what it is. \_\_\_\_\_
7. I can be sure that my children will be given curricular materials that testify to the existence of their race. \_\_\_\_\_
8. I can go into a bookshop and count on finding the writing of my race represented; into a supermarket and find the staple foods which fit with my cultural traditions; into a hairdresser's shop and find someone who can do my hair. \_\_\_\_\_
9. I can arrange to protect my children most of the time from people who might mistreat them because of their race. \_\_\_\_\_
10. I can swear and dress in secondhand clothes, or not answer letters, without having people attribute these choices to the bad morals, poverty or illiteracy of my race. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Whether I use checks, credit cards, or cash, I can count on my skin color not working against the appearance that I am financially reliable. \_\_\_\_\_

12. I can do well in a challenging situation without being called a credit to my race. \_\_\_\_\_
13. I am never asked to speak for all the people of my racial group. \_\_\_\_\_
14. I can remain oblivious to the language and customs of persons of color without feeling, from people of my race, any penalty for such oblivion. \_\_\_\_\_
15. I can criticize our government and talk about how much I fear its policies and behavior, without being seen as a racial outsider. \_\_\_\_\_
16. I can be pretty sure that if I ask to talk to "the person in charge," I will be facing a person of my race. \_\_\_\_\_
17. If a police officer pulls me over, I can be sure I haven't been singled out because of my race. \_\_\_\_\_
18. I can conveniently buy posters, postcards, picture books, greeting cards, and children's magazines featuring people of my race. \_\_\_\_\_
19. I can go home from most meetings or organizations I belong to feeling somewhat tied-in, rather than isolated, out-of-place, outnumbered, invisible feared, or hated. \_\_\_\_\_
20. I can take a job or attend college with an affirmative action employer without having co-workers or colleagues suspect that I was hired or admitted because of my race. \_\_\_\_\_
21. If my day, week, or year is going badly, I do not have to do any mental work trying to figure out whether my race played a role in it. \_\_\_\_\_
22. I can be sure that if I need legal or medical help, my race will not work against me. \_\_\_\_\_
23. I can worry about racism without being seen as self-interested or self-seeking. \_\_\_\_\_
24. I can comfortably avoid, ignore, or minimize the impact of racism on my life. \_\_\_\_\_
25. I can choose blemish cover or bandages in "flesh" color and have them more or less match my skin. \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Score:** \_\_\_\_\_

Adapted from Peggy McIntosh, *White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondence through Work in Women's Studies* (1988)

And adapted from *Beyond Diversity: A Strategy for De-Institutionalizing Racism and Improving Student Achievement* (2001-2002)