

# Stephen Colbert Does White Privilege

## FACILITATOR'S NOTES

**Note:** These outlined notes are the various issues and comments raised within the two Word segments. Ensure that the video is reviewed sufficiently so that the ways white privilege is emerging and being highlighted is clear to you before facilitating a workshop utilizing these materials.

### Neutral Man's Burden

White privilege issues:

- White is often considered normal, neutral, or natural. People of color are seen as exotic, ethnic, or unusual.
  - Band-aids were once only available in one color
  - Crayola crayons used to have a “flesh” color crayon
  - “standard person” color
  - Dredd Scott Decision
  - Internment Camp Decision
- Many white people believe that people of color carry a “chip” on their shoulder that is unhelpful and based on inaccurate interpretation of events. Therefore, decisions or interpretations from people of color are subject to increased scrutiny. “Are you sure?” “How do you know?”
  - This leads to the idea that one can't trust that Sonia Sotomayor would make neutral decisions. Fear.
- Colorblindness serves white privilege. Taking steps to treat race by NOT treating race (band-aid) only serves to cover up the underlying issues and actually inhibits a transformational/healing process from occurring.

### The Great White Wail

White privilege issues:

- Who has the power to name the issue and decide what to do
  - Problematic portrayal - Calling payments based on recent discrimination claims “slavery reparations”
  - Problematic linkage - Native Americans killed via disease and war is same as white lung cancer due to our adoption of smoking tobacco.
    - Alcohol introduction
- Assumption that white people are innocent and good
  - Evidence in video: White people fought against slavery with no reward
  - Exploitation – native Americans, slavery, Chinese immigrants
- Expectation of ownership
  - Reverse discrimination --- as though that spot is “ours” --- why don't we get to complain?
  - No evidence to suggest that lesser quality individuals are accepted over higher quality
  - Suggestion that if it's valuable, white men should get it too.