

**Title:** Stephen Colbert Does White Privilege

**Workshop Description:**

Comedian and satirist, Stephen Colbert, has gained fame for his Comedy Central show's portrayal of a right wing, politically conservative pundit. What is little discussed, however, is how he (and at least one of his writers!) uses that media platform to highlight issues of white privilege and racism. This workshop invites participants to view two clips from the Stephen Colbert show in order to discuss and critique 1) how the show is naming white privilege, 2) the way it highlights the role of privilege in history and today's politics, and 3) the degree to which the satirical approach effectively conveys the intended message.

**NOTE to presenters:** This workshop will only work if you are able to access the internet!

**The Word: Neutral Man's Burden ---- episode #05095**



[The Word - Neutral Man's Burden](#)

Episode: #05095

Sonia Sotomayor's personal background should be neutralized the way Band-Aids were when they reached out to minorities. (05:16)

<http://www.colbertnation.com/the-colbert-report-videos/238783/july-16-2009/the-word---neutral-man-s-burden>

**The Word: The Great White Wail --- episode #06153**



[The Word - The Great White Wail](#)

Episode: #06153

The Pigford claims prove that there's money in being a victim, and when something is valuable, white men get to take it. (04:57)

December 2, 2010

<http://www.colbertnation.com/the-colbert-report-videos/367132/december-02-2010/the-word---the-great-white-wail>

# Stephen Colbert Does White Privilege

## Workshop agenda – 1 hr. 5 minutes

1. What is white privilege? Clarifying terms for the day. Two handouts “working definitions” and “white privilege” (Discuss - 15 minutes)
2. Distribute notes sheet.
3. View clips, two times each. (20 minutes)

Caveat --- the issue being discussed through this workshop is about Stephen Colbert’s message and effectiveness, not the correctness of his analysis of the situation. The show is using isolated clips taken and put together to create a narrative that suits his purpose. The point is that we are interested at looking at the points he’s making and evaluating the degree to which people believe he’s effective in what he’s trying to highlight.

4. Discuss notes, what participants recognize (15 minutes)
5. Evaluate and discuss (15 minutes)

This workshop can easily take longer than the 1 hour 5 minutes allotted.