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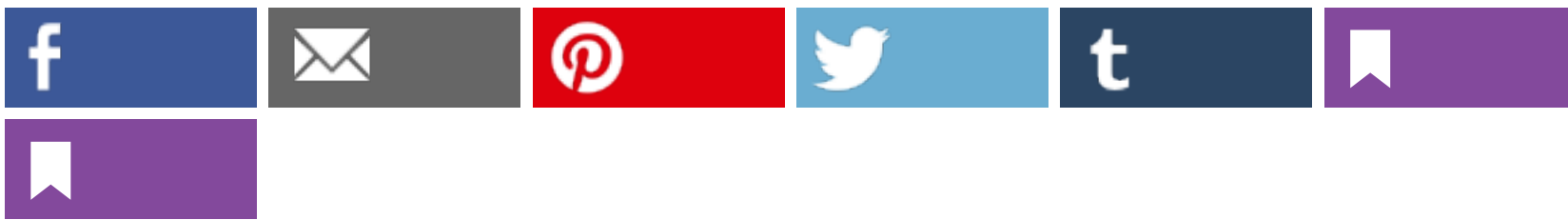
This Teacher Taught His Class A Powerful Lesson About Privilege

With a recycling bin and some scrap paper.

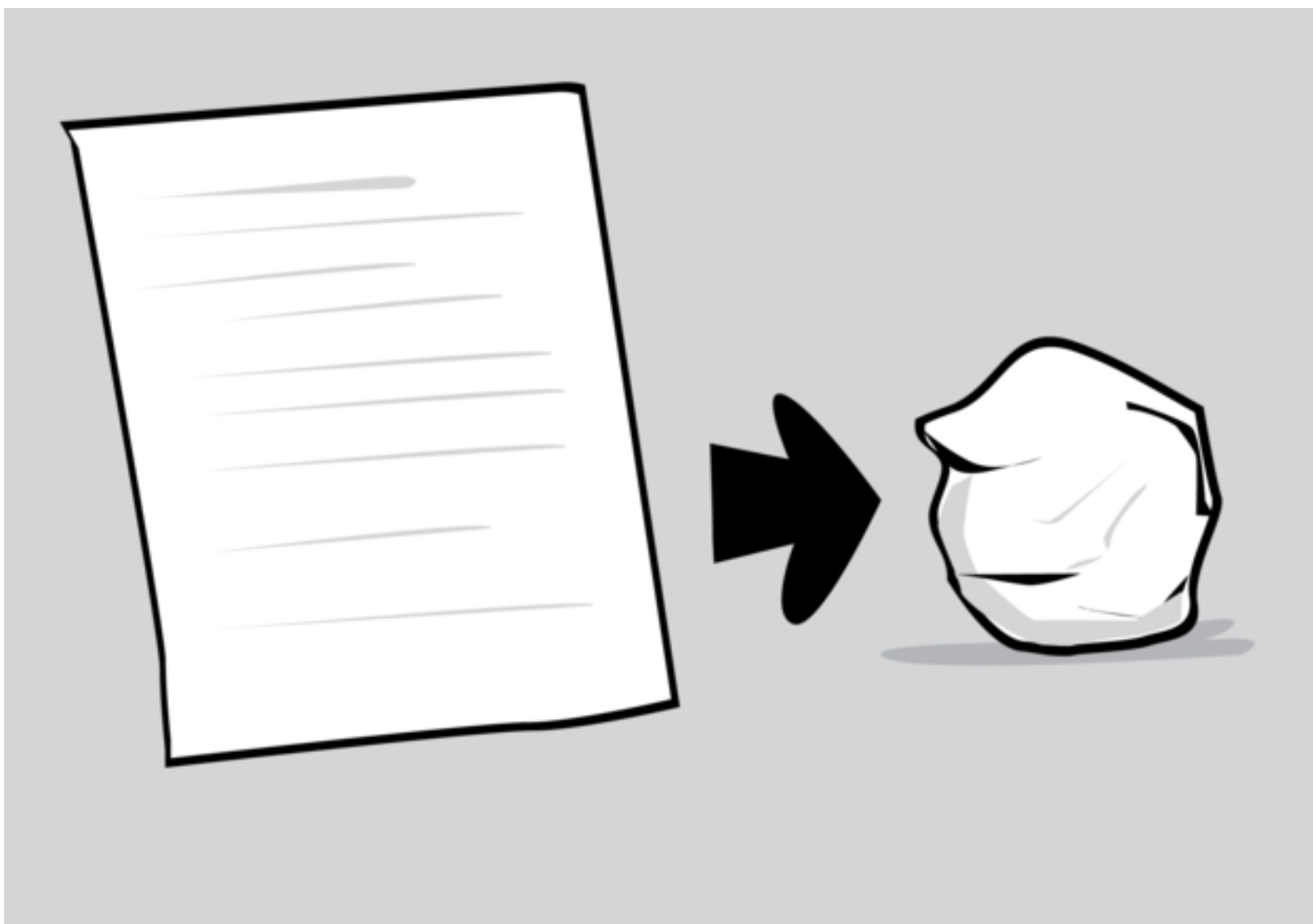
posted on Nov. 21, 2014, at 11:30 a.m.



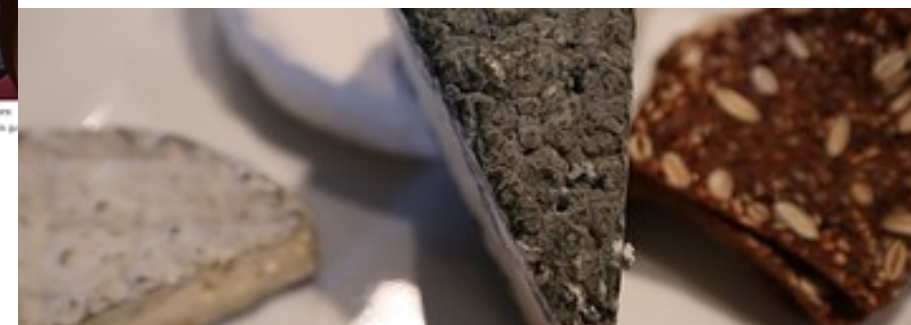
Nathan W. Pyle
BuzzFeed Staff



I once saw a high school teacher lead a simple, powerful exercise to teach his class about privilege and social mobility. He started by giving each student a scrap piece of paper and asked them to crumple it up.



Nathan W. Pyle / Via buzzfeed.com



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Dairy Farmers of Canada

BuzzFeedNEWS

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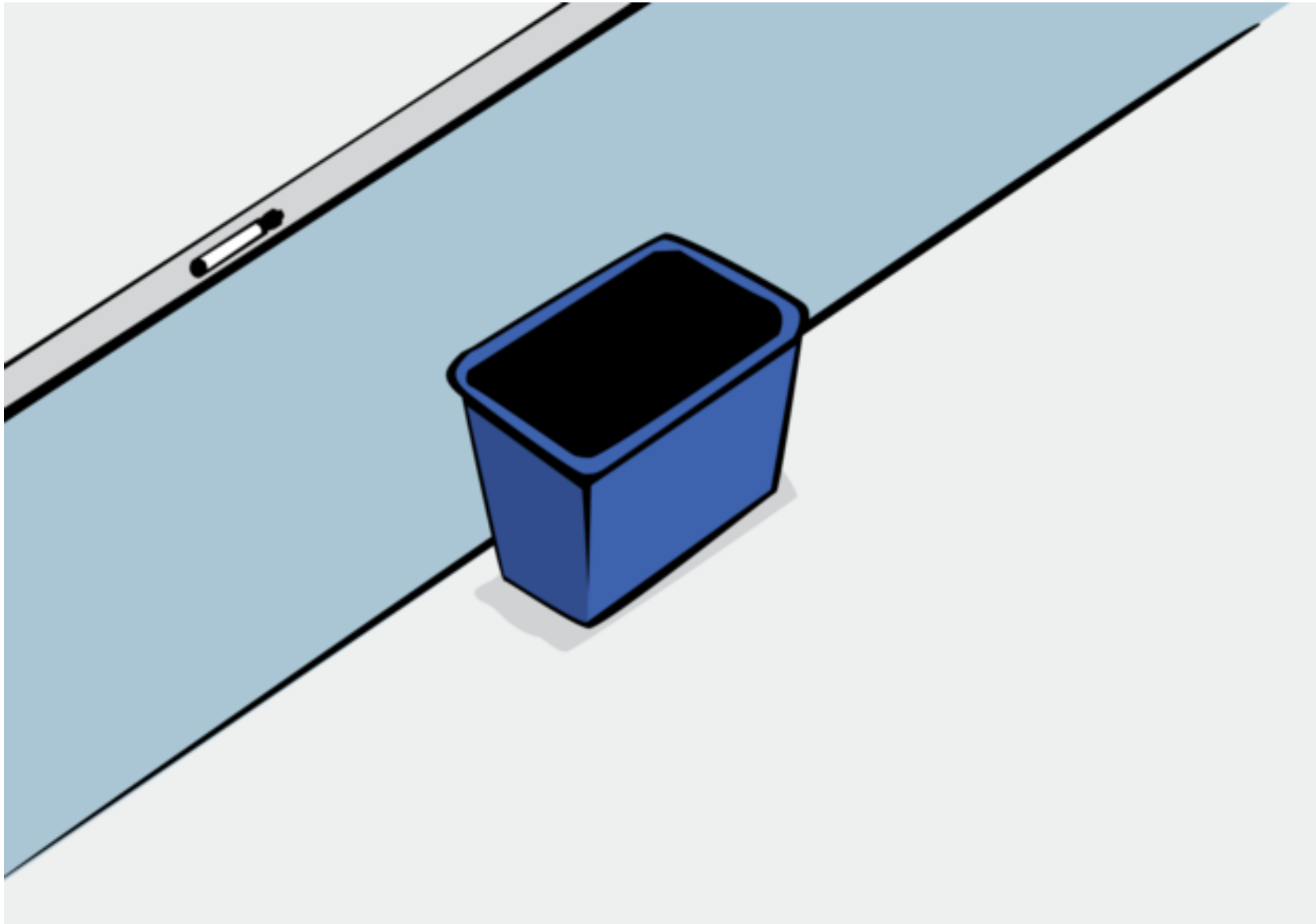
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How US Money Is

Then he moved the recycling bin to the front of the room.



Nathan W. Pyle / Via buzzfeed.com

He said, “The game is simple — you all represent the country’s population. And everyone in the country has a chance to become wealthy and move into the upper class.”



Nathan W. Pyle / Via buzzfeed.com

“To move into the upper class, all you must do is throw your wadded-up paper into the bin while sitting in your

Backing The Philippines' Bloody War On Drugs

by Megha Rajagopalan



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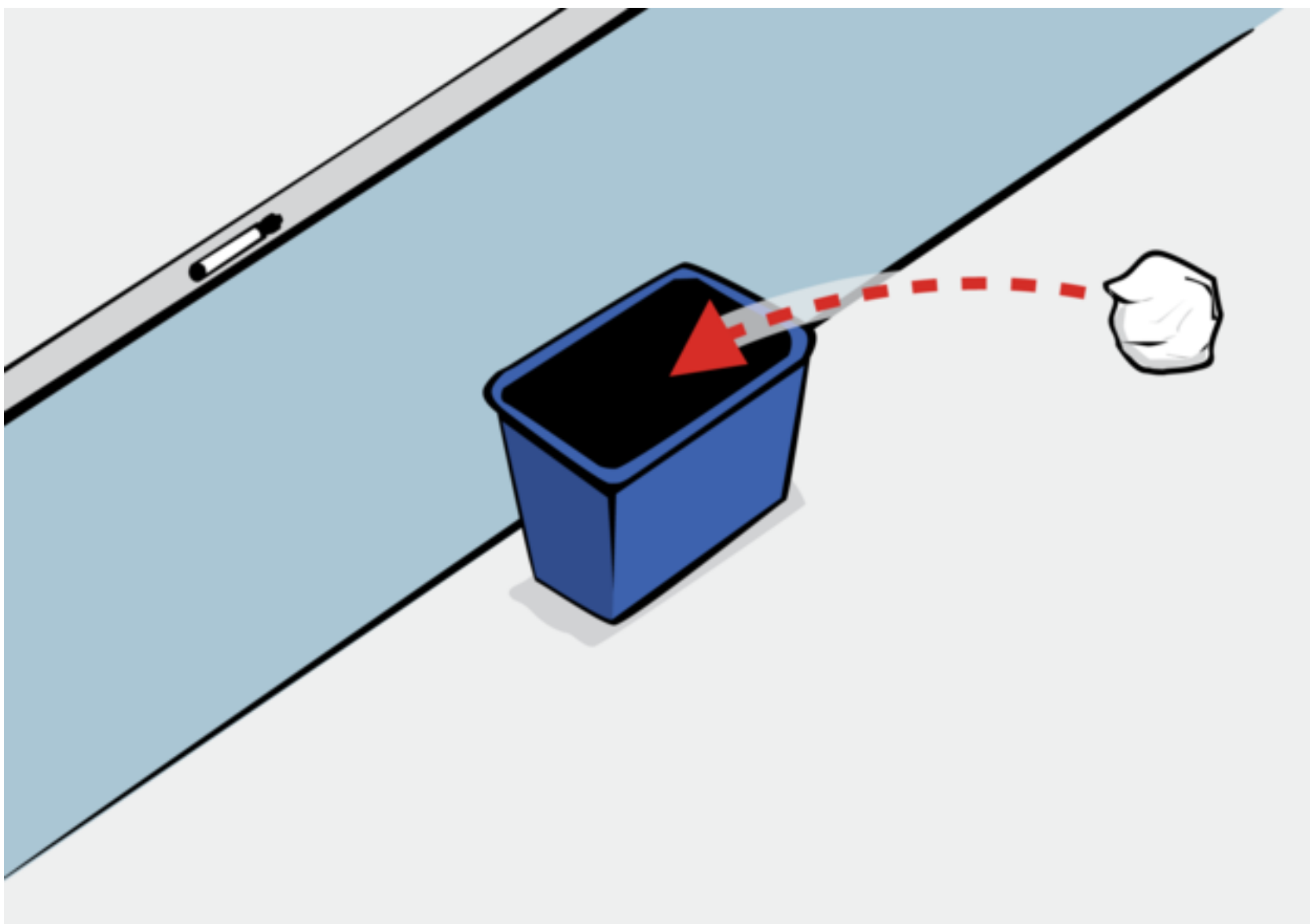
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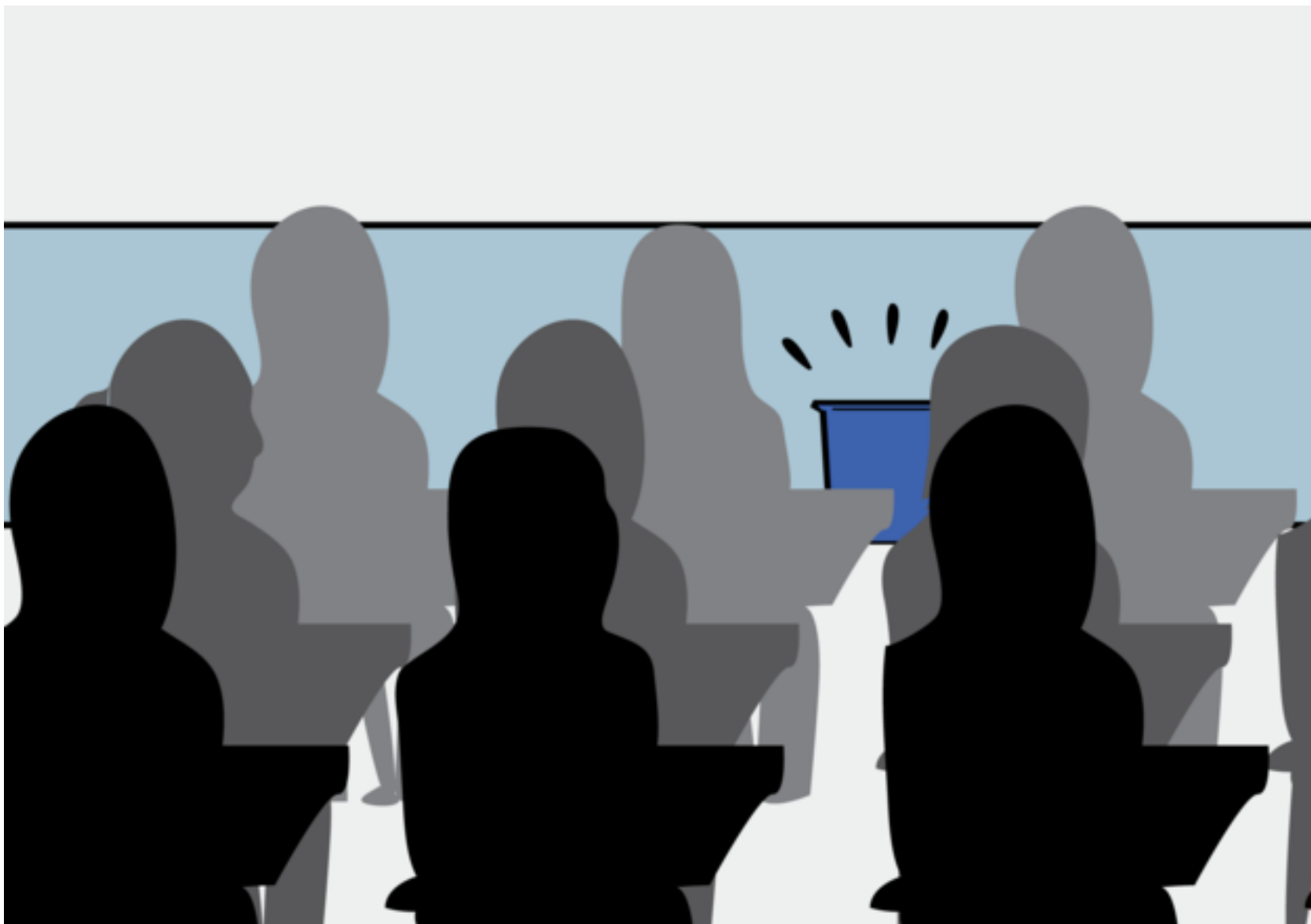
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seat.”



Nathan W. Pyle / Via buzzfeed.com

The students in the back of the room immediately piped up, “This is unfair!” They could see the rows of students in front of them had a much better chance.



Nathan W. Pyle / Via buzzfeed.com

Everyone took their shots, and — as expected — most of the students in the front made it (but not all) and only a few students in the back of the room made it.



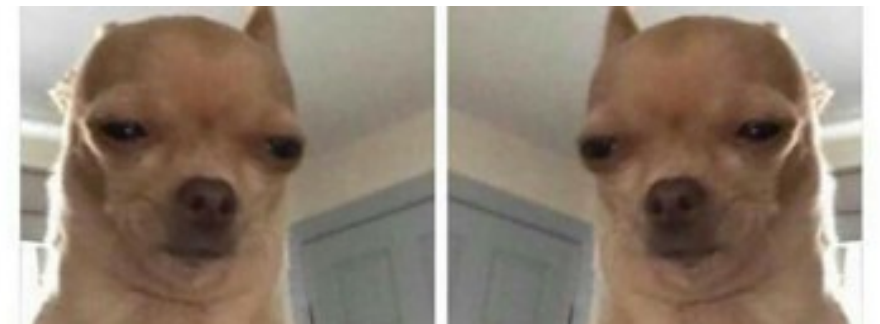
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What I Thought During The “Gilmore Girls” Revival

Luke's Diner On "Gilmore Girls" Serves Tim Hortons Coffee And Holy Shit

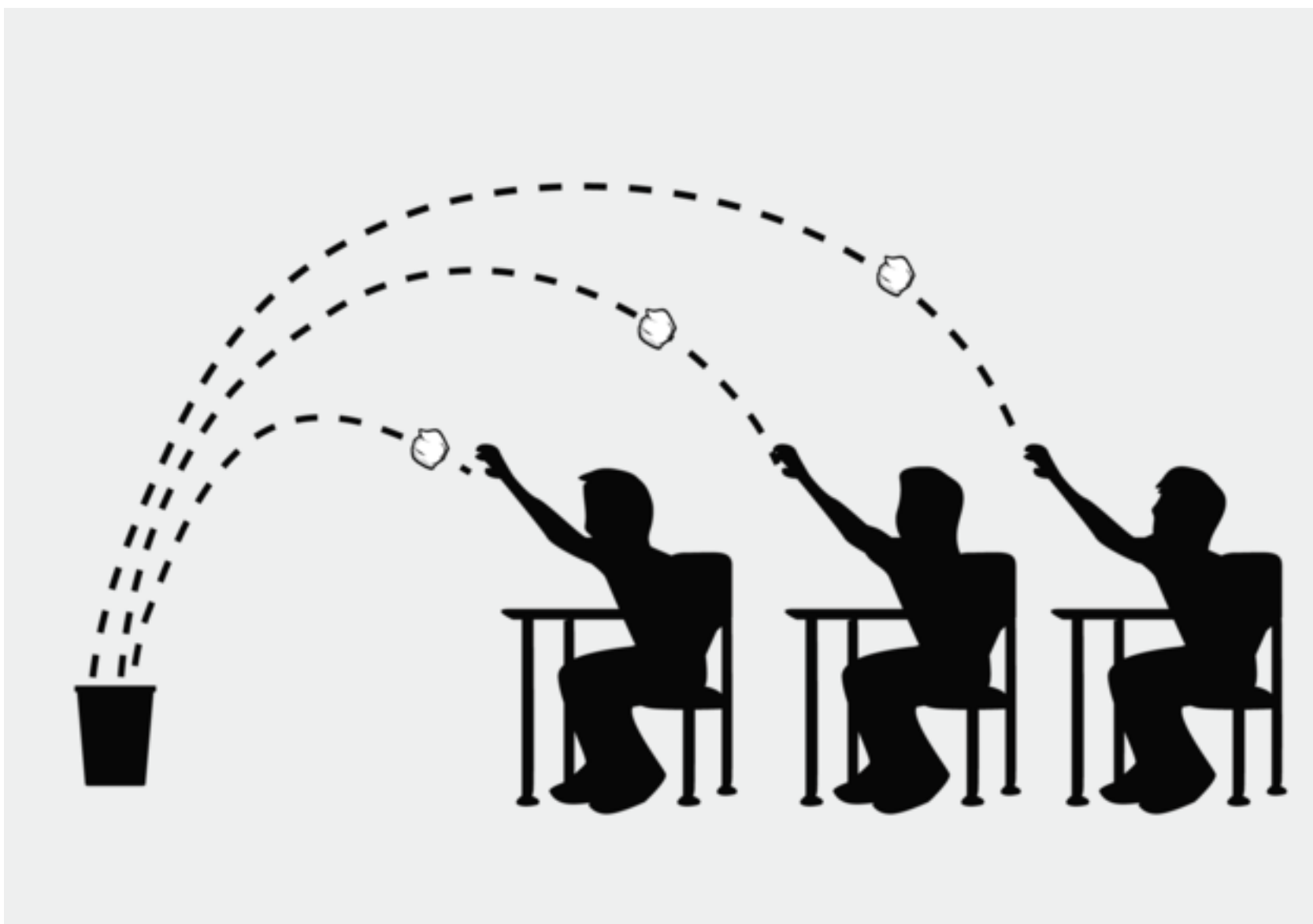


Luke's Diner On "Gilmore Girls" Serves Tim Hortons Coffee And Holy Shit



Nathan W. Pyle / Via buzzfeed.com

He concluded by saying, “The closer you were to the recycling bin, the better your odds. This is what privilege looks like. Did you notice how the only ones who complained about fairness were in the back of the room?”



Nathan W. Pyle / Via buzzfeed.com

“By contrast, people in the front of the room were less likely to be aware of the privilege they were born into. All they can see is 10 feet between them and their goal.”



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Exclusive: Here’s The New My Chemical Romance Song And It’s Incredible

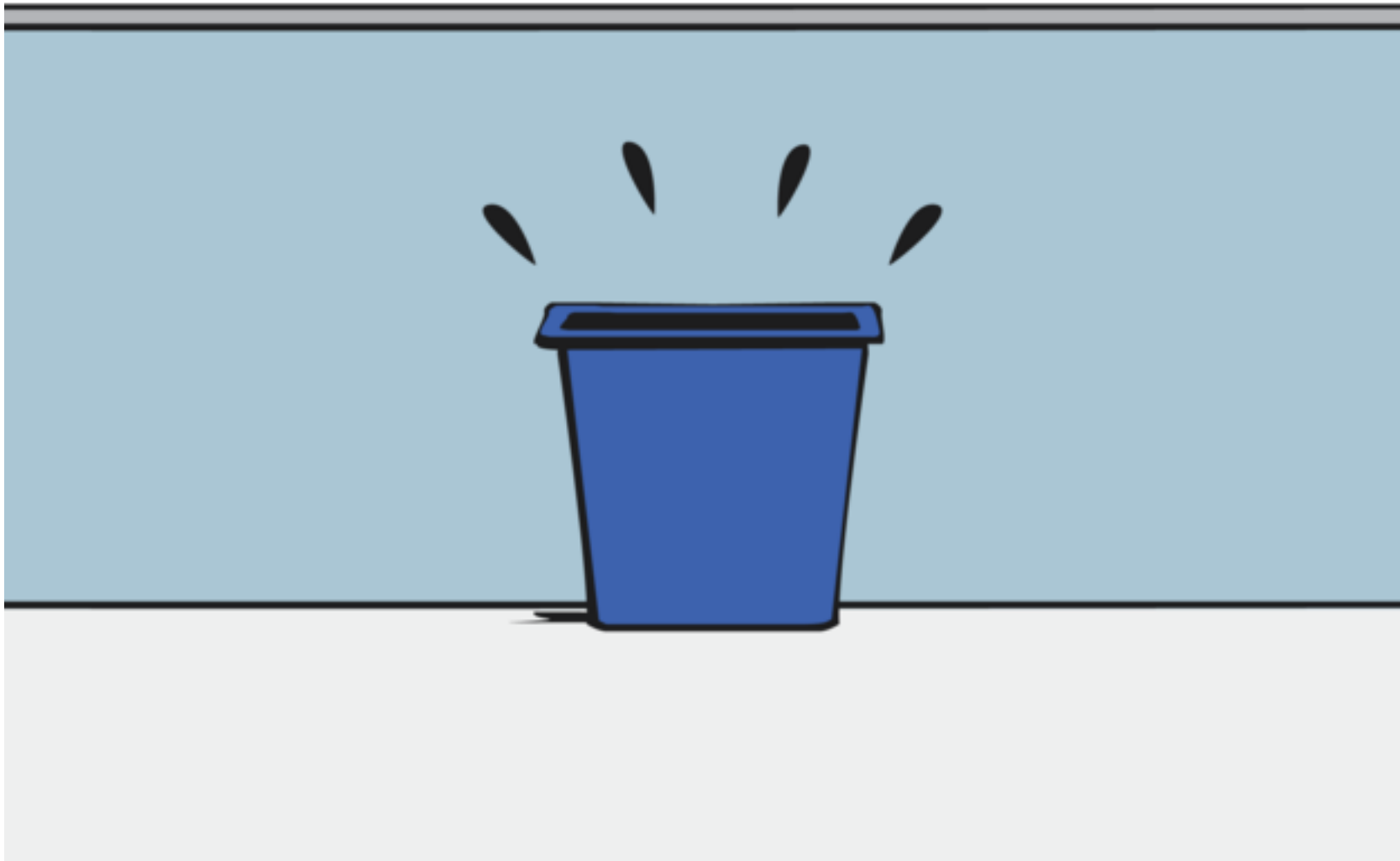


Parchment-Baked Chicken 4 Ways



This “Gilmore Girls” Easter Egg Is Only For The True Fans

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Nathan W. Pyle / Via buzzfeed.com

“Your job — as students who are receiving an education — is to be aware of your privilege. And use this particular privilege called “education” to do your best to achieve great things, all the while advocating for those in the rows behind you.”



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Tagged:illustrated, , viral, win, bold

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 monsieurbete
about a week ago

A more accurate representation of American society would be to tell the people at the back of the room to move their chairs in front of the front row, and those in the third row back to move their chairs right to the back of the room.

Then ask the people in rows 1-3 how they feel. This is affirmative action. Blacks (back row) have it made easier for them than it is for whites (first two rows), whilst East Asians (third row) have it made harder for them.

Can't we all agree that a better solution is to put everyone's chair in one long row at the front?


 RESPOND  1  3  SHARE

 monsieurbete
about a week ago

This is a nice experiment. But if you think about it, some of those at the front missed, and some of those at the back succeeded. The real lesson is not that "some people have it easier" or "why bother trying when the odds are against me", but that you can still fail despite your privilege if you don't put the effort in, and you can still succeed if you really put the effort in.

This is an important lesson for the privileged and the unprivileged. You are in charge of your destiny! Do not be discouraged, and do not be complacent.

 RESPOND  1  1  SHARE

 [marcelaplazac](#)
about 2 months ago



 RESPOND    SHARE ▾ 

 [rickyvanovich](#)
about a year ago

Having access to good education is a privilege not to be thrown away - but irrelevant of where you sit, whether you are in a class or not, whether you are still in formal education or that was in the distant past - there are multiple opportunities for learning and educating yourself - books and eLearning are all around us, grab them, consume them and move yourself to the front of the class.

 RESPOND    SHARE ▾ 

 [scottcote](#)
about a year ago


this lesson obviates the responsibility to think in generational terms. Its only about the here and now. My ancestors came here by crate and bucket via tramp steams with little more than the cloths on their backs. They did whatever they could, despite racism and bigotry to make it. They pushed their kids to succeed despite all of the obstacles, and I am a beneficiary of it. So I become really steamed when I take my children to a "title 1" school, where 7 out of 10 of their class mates are getting food subsidies, free cloths, and "look the other way" to other "societal rules" while having their kid playing with the latest hand electronic game, mom with her designer purse (while I have to tell my kid that they can't have the same stuff because its not financially responsible). This lesson doesn't incorporate generational thinking - and that is what needs to be addressed. My grandparents sacrificed a lot, and saved for me, so I save for my children's children. What do you do?

 RESPOND    SHARE ▾ 

 [veedakhan12](#)
about a week ago

Just because you suffered everyone else has to suffer too?

 RESPOND    SHARE ▾ 

 [Splunge](#)
about a week ago

When your grandparents came here there was much more opportunity, and this is a quantifiable fact. For example, construction jobs could be had pretty easily, and the wages from that could support a family of four in a middle-class lifestyle. Not any more.

When your grandparents came here a college education was a luxury, and was largely financed by the taxpayers. Not any more. College is a necessity, and state taxes pay for almost none of it, requiring students to go into huge amounts of debt.

You're a front-row paper-thrower and you don't even see it. *You* are the point of this teacher's exercise.

 RESPOND    SHARE ▾ 

 [renlov](#)
about a week ago


The incorporation of generational thinking is exactly what leads to aristocracy. The rules of the financial system are that investors are compensated based on the level of risk they assume when investing; lending to poor people is considered a higher risk than lending to wealthy people. So, the rules are such that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. As a previous commenter pointed out, economic opportunity is declining for those who have to rely on selling their labor. To put it another way, the return on labor is declining relative to the return on capital. So, these days it really does take money to make money.

What do you think happens when a family's wealth continues to accumulate while being passed from one generation to the next? Eventually, a handful of families emerge that control a large majority of the nation's wealth. Now, fast forward a couple of decades into the automation age and tell me how that is going to play out for everyone else?

No, its much better to give everyone a fair equal opportunity to be successful in life. That's certainly the world I'd choose to live in if given the choice.


Eventually, I expect a universal basic income to come about paid for by automated labor and 95% - 100% estate taxes. Whether we have to go through a French-style revolution to get there is an open question, though.

 RESPOND  3  0  SHARE

 [alan7409](#)
about a year ago


No one, I mean NO ONE should comment on this until you have read COVER to COVER 'Up from Slavery' by Booker T. Washington, 1901 autobiography. I put my wait on Mr. Washington's take on privilege.

 RESPOND  2  1  SHARE

 [onijunbei](#)
about a year ago


i would have my students put there desks in a circle and put the trash can in the middle and say "you all have an equal fucking chance to make it in life, but those who work harder at making the basket will be even more successful".

 RESPOND  2  20  SHARE

 [teds41de4f4b2](#)
about a year ago

You are manipulating the experiment to something else. You are acting like government telling people to do the right thing. That is not how the world actually works. The teacher hoped to inform his students, not manipulate their behavior.

 RESPOND  24  0  SHARE

 [Splunge](#)
about a week ago


And your experiment wouldn't reflect reality.

 RESPOND  16  0  SHARE

 [renlov](#)
about a week ago

I'm assuming you mean that you would like to see society arranged this way. Awesome! I would like that too. That's what equal opportunity is all about. I'd be interested to hear how you would accomplish this, though. I prefer a universal basic income, a 90%+ estate tax, and a highly automated workforce.

 RESPOND  2  0  SHARE

 [stevenb4e4078c82](#)
about a year ago

There is another interesting analogy in this example to be used (not to dilute the importance or strength of the one above). In a class room where students self-


select where they sit. The ones that are late (and lose their ability to select) or those that seek to be as far away and detached from the learning experience (as opposed to those that are early and select a front row seat). Your actions can impact on your ability - so yes circumstances make it easier for some to shoot, Some people will get it in or miss regardless of where they sit (some people are better at shooting) - but your choices and willingness to engage and learn are also important. Also the fact that someone finds it easier or gets it in doesn't preclude you from also getting it in (its not a zero sum game). Yes you might have to work harder, study harder be more industrious - but you will then make it easier for your kids.

RESPOND 3 0 SHARE

 **teds41de4f4b2**
about a year ago


Once again - that is a different experiment. If the seat you are in is random, that compares well with what family you happen to be born into.

RESPOND 5 0 SHARE

 **atthebuzzer**
about a year ago

But his point is well taken. Even if you are privileged, if you are lazy and come to class late, you have to sit further back and therefore lose the benefit of privilege. Consequently, you may not be successful in making the basket.

RESPOND 5 0 SHARE

 **Splunge**
about a week ago

“Even if you are privileged, if you are lazy and come to class late, you have to sit further back and therefore lose the benefit of privilege.”


Actually, if you are privileged and lazy, and come to class late, your family pays the teacher to get you a better seat at the table. That's how privilege works.

RESPOND 4 1 SHARE

 **renlov**
about a week ago

You only live once. If given a choice, I'd prefer to live in a world with equal opportunities over one where I give my life as a sacrifice for the convenience of a future generation (not that I wouldn't make that sacrifice if equal opportunity wasn't an option).

RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 **JlynnJ**
about a year ago

I find the general message to be a very good one and like the way he went about it. Had I been in the class, however, I would have gotten out of my seat, picked up the misses, and put them in the bin to illustrate what can happen when we help each other reach our goals. Sometimes, all it takes is a helping hand.

RESPOND 3 0 SHARE

 **renlov**
about a week ago

Well, that would be doing the work for them. The better way would be for a front row student who has had his turn to offer his seat to a kid in the back.

RESPOND 1 0 SHARE

 **f8ofwowzer**
about a year ago


This was an interesting experiment. Just so you ALL know, everyone FAILED! The reality is this, we are all labels. The labels we hold are placed on us by others from their point of view and when groups with the same thinking come together the label becomes more our reality.

RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 [notatwinofkilis](#)
about a year ago


I already feel bad about being “privileged”. Whenever I go to my friend’s house in my family’s Mercedes or they come to our house in a very nice neighbourhood, I want to trade places with them so they can have all my privileges. I just want others to have more than me, as weird as that sounds.

 RESPOND  2  10  SHARE

 [inni](#)
about a year ago

Don’t be guilty about what you have. Be a power and use what you have to enable those that just need the chance to prove their awesomeness. If you lose what you have, how can you affect another’s life positively? Be a force of betterment, for yourself, your family and those looking for the opportunity to succeed.

 RESPOND  3  0  SHARE

 [leaht46366a67f](#)
about a year ago


?

 RESPOND  0  1  SHARE

 [Swimchica623](#)
about a year ago


I did this with my senior English class while we got on a little tangent discussing class and the way society is automatically structured in Brave New World. One of my kids in the way back got his paper ball in the can. Made the lesson even better!

 RESPOND  4  0  SHARE

 [teds41de4f4b2](#)
about a year ago


Some people get a lucky break, then again, some people are a natural at basketball.

 RESPOND  1  0  SHARE

 [pairediddle](#)
about a year ago


The teacher is obviously a white male liberal. The premiss assumes everyone has the same goal and then presents one path and just one shot to succeed. Is his definition of success helping his students achieve their goals, or his? Can everyone in his class be successful or just the ones with a last name starting with a letter near the beginning of the alphabet? My God blesses me with struggles so that i can be a blessing to others who struggle. Do you struggle? Choose Gods definition of success for your life and you will ALWAYS succeed. - Christian

 RESPOND  3  16  SHARE

 [aramando](#)
about a year ago


Perhaps you haven’t noticed but 99% of people in society need to get a decent job (or gain the skills and/or talent to make paying work for themselves) in order to live a comfortable life. Yes, there are many paths and many ways of living a fulfilling life, but the fact is that in modern capitalist societies the *vast majority* of people want the same core achievement - to make enough money to be comfortable, live somewhere reasonably nice, eat decent food, and have the freedom to do a few things that they enjoy, and to give their families the same. There’s nothing noble or godly about the struggle of living in poverty, and it’s insulting to those who do to suggest that there is, especially when you are projecting your faith onto people who don’t share it.

 RESPOND  13  2  SHARE

 [KrabLouse](#)
about a year ago

What an arrogant comment, 'christian.' To sum up your post: 'I got mine, screw everyone else behind me. I'll help myself but do nothing for others.' The beautiful part is that this teacher's lesson was a perfect demonstration of Christ's teachings. You may be a 'Christian' but you do not understand Christ's teachings.

RESPOND 6 0 SHARE

 **janetdoe**
about a year ago

The irony of course being that it is likely your privilege that makes you so happy and self-satisfied, rather than the beneficent interventions of a fictional being. Who knows, there are very probably some *actual people* who put their shoulders to the wheel to help you get to a secure enough place that you now tell people to 'have a bit of a pray' on Internet comment threads. How they must feel it was worth it when they see 'God' getting the thanks for what they helped to achieve.

Look, praying may help some people to feel spiritually nourished and that's great, but it doesn't address poverty. Financial support, training, opportunity, access etc do that. As someone else already said, for some people the 'goal' is survival. For those slightly better off, it's living a bit of a life while they survive. This is a simple activity but for some groups it could be quite useful. More useful than praying, anyway.

What really struck me about it all is that it's 2015 and education is still, even now, considered a 'privilege'. That needs sorted pronto.

RESPOND 2 1 SHARE

 **renlov**
about a week ago

"There's nothing noble or godly about the struggle of living in poverty, and it's insulting to those who do to suggest that there is, especially when you are projecting your faith onto people who don't share it."

Yep. The Bible instructs Christians to admonish fellow Christians who are caught up in sin, but there is no commandment to call out the sin of unbelievers. In fact, it should be your actions (not your words) that influence people for Christ. I think I know where 'pairediddle' was going, but telling non-believers to embrace poverty and suffering (i.e. "struggles") is just plain foolish... especially without explaining what "God's definition of success for your life" is exactly.

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/slacktivist/2014/12/10/ignorant-christians-need-to-stfu-about-the-poor-you-will-always-have-with-you-until-they-can-be-bothered-to-understand-what-jesus-actually-said/>

RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 **mikaris01**
about a year ago


Not to mention that nowadays, part of throwing the paper into the wastebasket, is also swatting away other peoples paper balls you see flying in the air towards it, so that only yours can get in. There's nobody in the way to keep yours from going in, but you can actively prevent the people in the back from being able to get theirs in

RESPOND 6 1 SHARE

 **dimitrissideris**
about a year ago


Rich people, like those sitted in the front, are more preveleged than poor people. Moreover, they have more power than the poor ones and use their power in order to prevent the latter from becoming rich. Unlike education, the fortune may be gained without a (legal) effort (e.g. from a heritage or robbery)

RESPOND 2 2 SHARE

 [WeAreSoScrewed](#)
about a year ago

I am sick and fucking tired of being told I'm racist and/or privileged, because of the color of my skin. We are all individuals. If we stop telling specific groups of people that they are victims, then we empower them. The political leanings of this country have become completely divisive. Stop feeding into this bullshit.

 RESPOND    SHARE

 [cjs474ebcd55](#)
about a year ago


No one called you racist or privileged? This has to do with education. Not anywhere was race mentioned. Stop feeling sorry for yourself.

 RESPOND    SHARE

 [jenniek](#)
about a year ago




 RESPOND    SHARE

 [jerrys42f9f8c09](#)
about a year ago


Take away the white male and you take away about a thousand years of progress on this planet. That sound racist enough for you all? The only thing that creates progress, innovation, prosperity and most of the other good things people take for granted is struggle. The people in the back of the room that keep shooting until they consistently make the shot will excel over those that sit in the front and will be better for it. Move everyone to the front and in time all you have is mediocrity. So instead of teaching envy, try teaching striving for the things you want, pride and being self sufficient. Don't worry haters, a lot of white males are growing soft and complacent, unfocused and unmotivated. The question is will we have a better world because there will be enough people that want better and are willing to sacrifice and work hard or will it be a world of people expecting everything without contributing anything? The future looks bright in Asia.

 RESPOND    SHARE

 [KrabLouse](#)
about a year ago


Geesh. Congratulating yourself for rape, wars, imperialism, destruction of the planet, the list goes on. Before congratulating 'white males', don't forget you don't live in a vacuum. As if 'white males' have done it all and everyone else was sitting on their asses, twiddling their thumbs. Grow up. Not one group has contributed more than others but white males have done a lot of really, really awful things with complete disregard for the rest of humanity. What an illogical and warped view of life you have. And how hilarious that you mention struggle and working hard when it has been the white male who would actively block those who aren't white and male from getting the same opportunities. Work hard all you want but it means nothing if one group is opening the doors to their own kind and closing it to all others.

 RESPOND    SHARE

 [jond14](#)
about a year ago


Krab do you think it would have been any different if lets say Asians dominated the world the last thousand years? Look at their history of violence, genocide, rape, and oppression hell its still happening to some degree in North Korea and China. It's human nature. Our societies in the west today have progressed tremendously and I believe in a fair playing ground, but come on with that comment

RESPOND 1 0 SHARE

 **jmhkhn**
about a year ago




RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 **jencortedcon**
about a year ago


I found similar success teaching kids about privilege by using Legos, tongs and gloves. <http://www.jencort.com/#!How-do-Legos-Mittens-Gloves-and-Bandanas-Teach-Kids-about-Privilege/c1s2s/E52C8E2F-EE24-4545-B3DB-AD54DBABD65C>

RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 **Bigsexyhair**
about a year ago

It's incredible how many people miss the point. Some people in the back made the bin. Even though they have obstruction of the view. The front seat , some mattered if they got it in and some didn't 't.

RESPOND 4 1 SHARE

 **madelinewalterf**
about a year ago

Thank you Big, I agree. Immediately this took a turn. This lesson is not about Gender, Race, or privilege. It's about trying. As soon as you yell the race, gender or any other reason card, you label yourself. You become a victim.

RESPOND 4 2 SHARE

 **andersk2**
about a year ago


It's you who missed the point. The fact that some in the back made it and some in the front didn't does in no way disprove the notion that the game was rigged. Yet, in discussions of privilege, many act as if it does. As if the existence of white male hobos on the streets would somehow prove that there is no such thing as either male nor white privilege.

RESPOND 5 0 SHARE

 **denniem2**
about a year ago


Being an older, white male, I was denied promotion because I was white, and a male. I was told in the 70's and 80's, at least 3 different times, that I wasn't a women or black (brown), therefore I couldn't the next higher position. White males don't always have it made, because of being male and white. Fair needs to be fair for all, all the time.

RESPOND 6 12 SHARE

 [KrabLouise](#)
about a year ago


I wish you would have been there when I was an expert rifleman in the army and they said I was good enough for sniper school but couldn't because apparently my sex stopped me from training but not from shooting 38 out of 40 targets every time. There was one day we had 3 rounds to get our shot groups to set our rifle sights and I fired 2 rounds into the same hole and the third just made the hole bigger. Welcome to life. Maybe if you'd been out there fighting for 'fairness' for all, you'd have gotten yours. The army lost what was possibly one of their best snipers due to institutionalised sexism. Have you considered that maybe you just weren't the best person for the job? It's an old tale about HR making snide remarks about affirmative action and it really isn't right of them. You didn't get a job, so what? That's what women and blacks have been told for decades.

 RESPOND  8  0  SHARE

 [hannahk821](#)
about a year ago




 RESPOND  0  0  SHARE

 [Mxr5150](#)
about a year ago


I hope the author is making this up, otherwise the teacher made a horribly inaccurate analogy. Having successful life isn't going to be the same for anyone (even if the same race/sex/socio-economic background/desire-to-succeed. It certainly can't be equated to where you sit and throwing a piece of paper in a wastebasket. But, then again, it's buzzfeed.

 RESPOND  0  9  SHARE

 [cherriblossm2116](#)
about a year ago

But the analogy is -give or take- spot on. The ones who have all the advantage and privilege they need don't say a word. They go about their business and don't pay mind to the people who are disadvantaged by the system. The people who ARE disadvantaged by the system are the ones who speak up because everyone else doesn't / doesn't see it. That's what this article is saying. And in that sense it is pretty accurate. You don't realize you have the privileges you have until you see what others don't.

 RESPOND  12  0  SHARE

 [zackd4ceef0861](#)
about a year ago

ive never met a hard working person who didnt make there life goal..... people can blame or give excuzes for "the man" keeping them down, or "i wasnt born into the right situation". but what it really comes down to is do you want it bad enough.

 RESPOND  4  3  SHARE

 [Joshujay](#)
about a year ago

Man you completely missed the point.

samuelmarshall10
about a year ago

You clearly missed his point. It's spot on. The problem is everyone in the class feels entitled that they deserve to be in the front of the room when in reality they all deserve to be in the back. But if all you do is whine in the back of the room that things aren't fair instead of working hard to scoot your chair and position yourself better then you're setting yourself up for failure. Instead of blaming other for your circumstances, work hard and change what you can change instead of throwing a temper tantrum that somebody else has it better.

RESPOND 2 5 SHARE

DaveWilson
about a year ago

No you have missed the point. If you are in a privileged position, no matter how you got there, you should help those that need help. Yes there are people that don't do anything to help themselves but there are also those that are born into dire circumstances that are no fault of their own and can't escape without the help of others. The people in the front didn't speak up for the people in the back. Get it?

RESPOND 8 0 SHARE

jond14
about a year ago

Dave what's the solution? Do you want wealth redistribution? Socialism? Communism? All of the above fail horribly. I agree that college should be free for all who want to attend (state schools) but that won't stop people demanding for more. If this country heads down the paths listed above then the dream is truly over.

the American Dream is not a guarantee its just an opportunity. Remember in most of the world you have a 0% chance of moving up from poverty, in America it's better than anywhere else. You can write a piece of code, and the next year you're a billionaire for example

RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

f8ofwowzer
about a year ago

Interesting. There is a quote from a TV show called "The West Wing"(1999-2006).

The Chinese Ambassador character says, "Capitalism vanquished Communism, obliterated it... but "you" (America) have always taught us that Liberty is the same thing as Capitalism, as if Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness can not be crushed by greed. Your American Dream is financial not ethical."

RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

renlov
about a week ago

@jond14


No economic mobility is not better in the USA than anywhere else. See this: <http://www.epi.org/publication/usa-lags-peer-countries-mobility/>

RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

ankitm3
about a year ago




RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 [j13designdev](#)
about a year ago


Story never mentions “white”, only privilege. You can thank our friend argumentum ad populum for that piece. Also, seat assignments or lack thereof must be considered. No one tried to better their odds, just sat with invisible chains awaiting the inevitable.

RESPOND 2 0 SHARE

 [willw43ec89e37](#)
about a year ago

cool idea but this never took place

RESPOND 2 2 SHARE

 [mariab15](#)
about a year ago

That doesn't matter numnuts. It's social media it's about getting this message out there. Plus how do you know? I had a highschool teacher who would do little things like this to teach us life morals. So stop being such a Debbie Downer.

RESPOND 4 0 SHARE

 [cherriblossm2116](#)
about a year ago


Not true. My teacher did a silimar activity in sociology..

RESPOND 3 1 SHARE

 [joed18](#)
about 2 years ago

And then, a savvy kid in the back row moved his seat to the front of the class right next to the bin, sat down, and calmly dropped the paper in, making a fool of his teacher by providing a better metaphor for real life.

RESPOND 2 3 SHARE

 [rubig](#)
about a year ago


How the hell does someone in poverty ‘cheat’ the system and automatically make their way to the top, genius?

RESPOND 5 1 SHARE

 [GioDesa](#)
about a year ago


affirmative action

RESPOND 1 2 SHARE

 [Joshuajay](#)
about a year ago


If affirmative action is this useful how come then explain why all black people are not top level?

RESPOND 5 2 SHARE

 [Stefanina](#)
about a year ago

You know what affirmative action really gets people, don't you? Minorities in the bottom rungs, and white males at the top.

 RESPOND  0  1  SHARE

 [cristianan2](#)
about 2 years ago



 RESPOND  0  0  SHARE

 [Maureenmmb](#)
about 2 years ago


You know what I'm not hearing? I'm not hearing that before we can discuss, we need to learn how to talk. We end up attacking, trying to impress, pounding our chest, making personal attacks. We talk at people but we don't listen. We will not get anywhere, and definitely not issues that are as charged as "privilege." So, how do we begin? Teachers need to start out by teaching groups of people - children or adults - effective, respectful ways of communicating. We need to find that "sweet spot" called assertiveness. Not passive, not aggressive, but assertive. Deep and empathic listening can be the next lesson, or it can be incorporated.

 RESPOND  4  0  SHARE

 [adamryanp](#)
about 2 years ago


I love how stupid some of these arguments are. This isn't just about social classes in a single country. It's about social classes world wide.

 RESPOND  0  0  SHARE

 [wendye2](#)
about 2 years ago



 RESPOND  0  0  SHARE


 [Ljg19](#)
about 2 years ago

Not even bothering to credit Reddit anymore?

 [Nathan W. Pyle](#)
about 2 years ago

Check the dates - I wrote this on Friday for BuzzFeed- and it's been reposted to other sites many times since then.

 RESPOND  1  1  SHARE ▾ 

 [discofever1](#)
about 2 years ago


The metafor simply is not about race, it's about how you make your class together. You need the class to change instead of teaching people to move theirselves to the front of the class. Racism needs to be teaching everyone to take their rightfull place iwhever that may be in the class. Instead of making everybody be the middle. Respect the one in the back, he might be giving room for the people incapable of performing the job if they do not sit in the front. Strive to once become the master that can perform from all places and make everyone hit throw right. "Thinking in front and backseats" will only results in changing seats, not in working as a team.

 RESPOND  1  0  SHARE ▾ 

 [renlov](#)
about a week ago


I think the idea is to rearrange the structure of the class so that everyone sits in a circle and the goal is in the middle. Or if you want some nuance, you have 3 rows each a concentric circle around the goal. Each row pays out differently but the rewards for a making the goal from the back row aren't that much greater than making the shot from the middle row. That's what an equitable society looks like.

 RESPOND  0  0  SHARE ▾ 

 [melaniet45c448755](#)
about 2 years ago

The power of knowledge

 RESPOND  1  0  SHARE ▾ 

 [2spiriteric](#)
about 2 years ago


When will people come to their senses and openly acknowledge what we all know to be a fact: the primacy of heterosexual, White, middle class, Anglo-Saxon, Christian males in America is imminently threatened by an increasingly diverse, progressive-minded, feminist, LGBT friendly, pro-immigrant, ethnically mixed, pro-environment, secular or interfaith coalition that does not know that it is a coalition - yet. Additionally, the "browning" of America is already underway and there is no stopping it. Even though White male power is so deeply entrenched in our institutions, government and the disgustingly racist propagandist media machine, one can imagine apartheid-like asymmetry in a few decades. Just look at the Republican Party; every year thousands of old white people who call Jim Crow or 1950's segregation mentality the "good ol' days" die off -not to be replaced by younger generations of bigots. The arc of justice is long indeed, but true and inevitable. We can argue about "privilege" but when all is said and done, this country will belong to the "minorities" who will become the majority. Perhaps then and only then, white people will understand experientially what privilege is through the ostensible lack of it.

 RESPOND  0  0  SHARE ▾ 

 [millanj](#)
about 2 years ago


The bucket doesn't really exist..

 RESPOND  0  0  SHARE ▾ 

 [robertr4608703ef](#)
about 2 years ago

We wanted to escape our Detroit parent-less hell hole. So, when I was 11 yrs old, my twin brother and I bought a bus ticket to Omaha, Nebraska. We grew up at Father Flanagan's Home For Boys. Boys Town saved us both. Grad '65 If you dont like your life, change it to the degree you can. Stop blaming. No one is born to entitlement. No one.

 RESPOND  1  1  SHARE ▾ 

 [brentp47d0566c2](#)
about a year ago


The reason Flanagan's Home For Boys was an option was because individuals more privileged than you started the organization so you could have that opportunity. They helped you overcome your disadvantage. This is exactly what the comic is illustrating should be available.

 RESPOND  2  0  SHARE ▾ 

 [renlov](#)
about a week ago


Exactly!

 RESPOND  0  0  SHARE ▾ 

 [nrebrokers](#)
about 2 years ago


I would tell the children where to sit. Because in real life, you do not have the privilege to choose the row...

 RESPOND  1  0  SHARE ▾ 

 [caryb44f2e20d1](#)
about 2 years ago

Grew up middle class white male. Realized early the system was gamed in my favor - didn't like the way that felt, had some kind of fortunate intuition that told me life would be better if I didn't take the easy roads set before me. Chose some harder roads instead, learned a lot. Learned to respect people who have no choice but to work harder to get ahead. Learned to respect even more people who have no choice but to work harder just to survive and maybe even wind up a little worse than they started. Learned compassion, friendship, humanity. Still learning. Still trying to use the position I am fortunate enough to have - in part due to being white - to try to open up the eyes and minds and hearts of my students. Still trying to learn how to be a better person, to love and be loved better. Still have hope.

 RESPOND  2  1  SHARE ▾ 

 [philb450e89334](#)
about 2 years ago

The biggest privilege, sociologically speaking, is not race, it is growing up with two parents that love and support each other. Even lacking that, it is important to teach that all things can be overcome, and even those with perceived privilege often fail too.

 RESPOND  0  0  SHARE ▾ 

 [shantrouble](#)
about 2 years ago



RESPOND 1 0 SHARE

DavidDruen
about 2 years ago

Education is one example of privilege, but it *pales* in comparison to the privilege of having super rich parents who have the connections to give you a high paying job or better yet, give you an insane amount of money so that you don't have to work at all. I'm white and privileged with education, but since I was more interested in science and math and less interested in business and stock markets and screwing people over, I'm somewhere in the back half of that middle row.

RESPOND 1 0 SHARE

Gary S.
about 2 years ago

Intriguing takeaway lesson: if you are among ONE group forcefully disagreeing with some premise of the OP, ANOTHER group will forcefully harass you into silence.

That seems as powerful and dangerous as any effect of privilege.

RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

renlov
about a week ago

That would be because of the demographics of BuzzFeed. I'd be careful about applying that logic to the nation. We did just elect DJT after all.

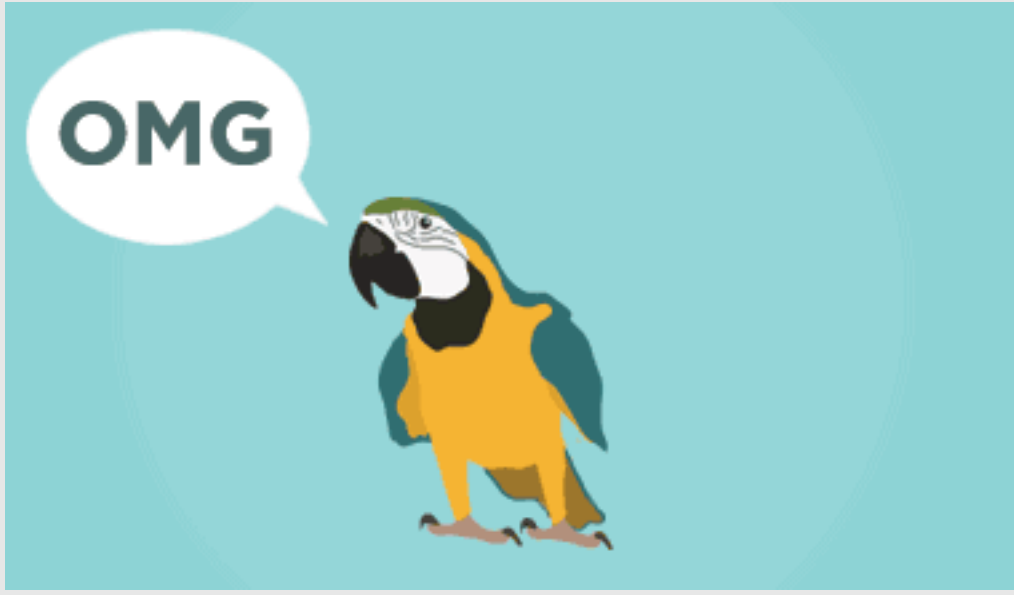
RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

13boudreaux
about 2 years ago




RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

jerahmeelsanchezs
about 2 years ago




RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 **joseph13**
about 2 years ago



RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 **greenteagurly27**
about 2 years ago

That's a clever demonstration. However, had the students been thoughtful enough they could have moved (scouted) there seats while still remaining seated. Or even better there was no emphasis on the person staying seated (they just had to shoot while sitting in there seat) therefore, one could have gotten as close as physically possible. Sometimes people are more privileged but in those situations it is what you do to better your chances. What steps can you take to make it just a little more balanced?


RESPOND 0 2 SHARE

 **Tcurse**
about 2 years ago

He didn't say chair, he said seat. Now, yes, in English seat can also mean chair, but there is a difference. It's easier to understand this way - I live in Japan. In Japanese, isu means chair and seki means seat. The meaning of seki only is "space where someone has to sit." Now, that's usually on a chair, but if you move your chair's location, you're not sitting in your seat (because seat is an area).


Main point, I'm aware seat means "place to sit" and "chair" in English, but you know damn well what the teacher meant when he said to throw it from their seats.

RESPOND 1 1 SHARE

 **DavidDruen**
about 2 years ago

er meh garrd

RESPOND 0 0 SHARE


 **ExileOnDaytonStreet**
about 2 years ago

Think of it another way, greenteagurly27. Let's say that the students can all move their chairs to better their position. Ideally, you'd want to get your chair as close to the front as you could, maybe even right next to the waste basket. For

the exact same reason that they have a better chance of making their shot, the students in front are at an advantage because it's closer and quicker for them to scoot up right up to the basket. Due to space limitations, they'll probably also be able to block out other people from making their way in. Therefore, starting at the front is still an advantage, even when everyone is able to work their way up. I hate to put it so bluntly, but to act like that isn't an advantage would make you to be kind of an asshole.

I get the point you're trying to make: the idea is that with enough skill you can still make your shot, regardless of where you start. Maybe you're a good shot, or maybe you're clever enough to move desks, but you can still make it happen. That's great and that's inspiring for people with the unfortunate disposition to be stuck in the back. But in the real world, there is no such thing as a "true" meritocracy, where your skill/ability is the one and only thing that dictates your success. Unless you have some amazing statistical outliers in your class, those people in the front are statistically going to make it more often than the people in the back. The only way to have a "true" meritocracy where there was only skill and no pre-made advantage would be to go through all the trouble to re-arrange the chairs into a nice little semicircle with the waste basket at the center. And for all the free-market types who love to expound upon people succeeding on merit, I highly doubt that a single one of them will like that kind of solution (quite frankly, neither do I... seems like a lot of fuss)

RESPOND 1 0 SHARE

 [sixwords](#)
about 2 years ago

You make it sound like it's crowded at the top. In this case the "front of the room." I'm not there yet but I know that it's certainly cozy up there.

RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 [manky](#)
about 2 years ago

the word privilege can be looked up in a dictionary. This is teaching something else. I'm Hispanic. I'm privileged because my parents loved me and taught me well. Not everyone has that doesn't matter who you are, not everyone has that.

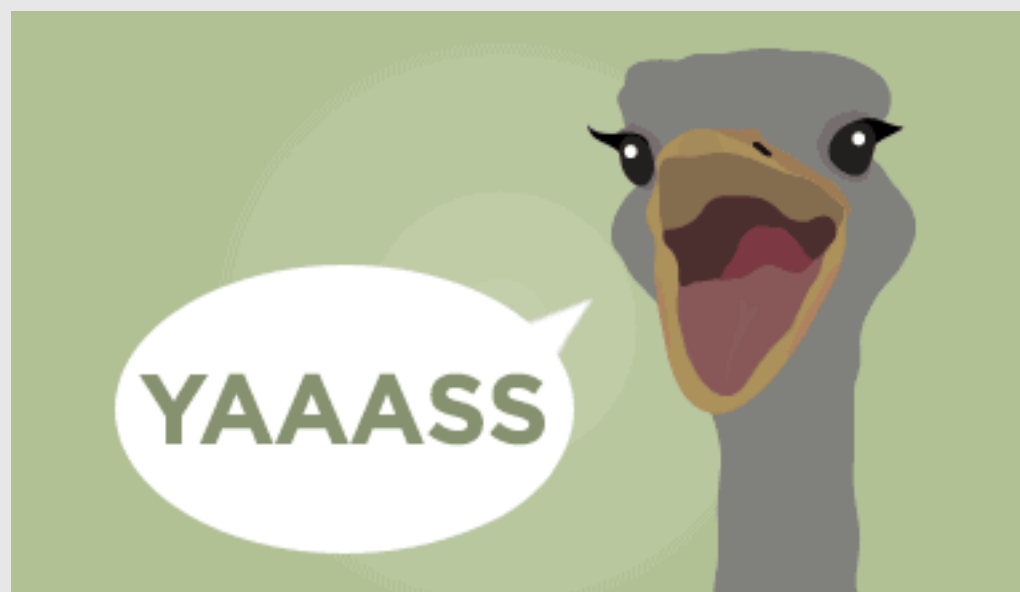
RESPOND 1 2 SHARE

 [ancientmyth](#)
about 2 years ago


i think sometimes when the front row is removed and taken to the back of the row because "they already have an advantage" being "white, straight, and male" probably produces some dissent from those being moved to the back row constantly.

RESPOND 0 1 SHARE

 [neeshabhana](#)
about 2 years ago




RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 nataliem4136e09c9
about 2 years ago



 RESPOND  0  0  SHARE

 timh4e8724d47
about 2 years ago


The teacher taught the class to resent and vilify people because of their economic status and color. The teacher taught the class that Capitalism is a zero sum game. The teacher perpetuated an ancient Marxist falsehood. There are very few daily habits, which, when practiced on a daily basis, could earn ANYONE in this country a million dollars by retirement. It has nothing to do with race or culture.

 RESPOND  0  4  SHARE

 coldwarkid
about 2 years ago


wouldn't make them live in luxury, but might make them a little less miserable? I'm not saying "raise taxes on the hardworking middle class so that freeloading homeless people can have gold bath tubs", but if we raised taxes on the richest 1% just a little bit poor children might be able to go to school with a full stomach and one less toothache.

 RESPOND  3  0  SHARE

 coldwarkid
about 2 years ago


Okay, put your philosophy degree back on the wall for a sec and look around an actual ghetto. Don't you think there are things we could do for the poorest people in our country that

 RESPOND  3  0  SHARE

 DavidDruen
about 2 years ago


Check out this one weird trick and you can earn \$1,000,000 by retirement! Work from home only 8 hours a week!

 RESPOND  0  0  SHARE

 dezihex
about 2 years ago

Slow Clap

 RESPOND  2  1  SHARE

 TheoneWhoKnowsYourSecret
about 2 years ago

It would be even more accurate if they would have a ceiling fan to deviate the throws.


 RESPOND  2  0  SHARE

 DavidDruen
about 2 years ago

And if the recycling bin slowly moves back (inflation), so slow you barely even notice it, while the chairs move up an inch every 10 or 20 years or so (minimum wage increase) to subdue the chance of riots, but not enough to keep up with

the recycling bin.

RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 [ExileOnDaytonStreet](#)
about 2 years ago

You would still be statistically more likely to make it if you were closer than you would be if you were further away.


As with any analogy, there are a number of mitigating factors in the real world that make the analogy less than perfect. But I think it makes for a fantastic illustration of what privilege is nonetheless.

RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 [takahiroh](#)
about 2 years ago

Like it. This is the thing we must call 'education'.

RESPOND 1 0 SHARE

 [g4127dd588](#)
about 2 years ago

so impressed. this is a good defibition what the education is


RESPOND 1 0 SHARE

 [DavidDruen](#)
about 2 years ago

*definition.


oooo, looks like someone is underprivileged :)

RESPOND 0 1 SHARE

 [djrad93](#)
about 2 years ago

Alright, so we have a problem. Good. Instead of denying it, let's (FOR ONCE) figure out how to FIX IT. Lemme see... Well, I suppose if you're a person who's in the front row, you can always reach back to help those behind you? That's all I got. What about you? No matter what, we'll be divided by circumstances, but that doesn't mean we have to be in denial, or bitter. We're all in the same boat (ya know, Earth), so the real issue my people, is learning to love and help one another. Rascism, sexism, and anything else we're divided on are just branches to the tree. The tree is lack of love and respect for us, as one.

RESPOND 3 0 SHARE

 [kevine4a64b72ae](#)
about 2 years ago

Or you could become a liberal douche of a teacher and provide students with a built-in excuse for failure. Opportunity is available for all if you make the right decisions and work your ass off.

RESPOND 0 4 SHARE

 [coldwarkid](#)
about 2 years ago


Nobody's saying it's not. But don't you think it would be hard to make the "right" decisions if you had grown up in the ghetto and the richest people you saw everyday were drug dealers (and most of your high school class had dropped out)? You can only know what the "right decisions" is if you've been taught, which many people haven't. And wouldn't it be hard to "work your ass off" if you were malnourished and had a toothache you couldn't afford to fix?

RESPOND 5 0 SHARE

 [katybethm](#)
about 2 years ago



RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 josepedrod
about 2 years ago

That's nice but in real life you don't get just one shot. You get a shot every day. And it's never too late to start making an effort.

Also, in real life you're not in a fixed seat... those at the front who don't take a shot at the bucket, will gradually move to the back row. And those who take a shot, will fail, many times, but eventually they succeed.

There's not a single person in the world that have succeeded, that doesn't have failures to talk about.

Those at the back row who don't take a shot because they're just victims of the systems, will stay at the back row, notice how they're the ones who complain the most.

RESPOND 2 5 SHARE

 michele capobianco
about 2 years ago

I'd encourage you to dial back your analysis and realize this exercise had nothing to do with people who do not make an effort. Every student threw their ball of paper.

I'd also encourage you to look up the word metaphor based on your comment beginning with "in real life".

This isn't a story about "failures". It's about privilege. I really have a hard time understanding why some people responding to this article can't seem to focus on what it's actually about.

And your last sentence is irrelevant as well. Even privileged people sometimes "don't take a shot", but the thing is they don't have to worry as much as the underprivileged because they have more rungs below. I'm not sure where you're getting your stats about who complains the most. Fighting for better opportunities is not complaining. This is exactly the point: people in the back row need people in the front row to acknowledge privilege in our society instead of accusing the back row of complaining every time they try to move up a row through hard work, effort, and civil/human rights afforded by the Constitution.

RESPOND 10 1 SHARE

 Shakira Chanrai
about 2 years ago



RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

[mikep4cfa69126](#)
about 2 years ago

Funny how so many white male Christians forget the, "I am my brothers keeper" part

RESPOND 1 1 SHARE

[hopeo](#)
about 2 years ago



RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

[grahamw4](#)
about 2 years ago

the system as it stands here, allows for those that got close to the bin can enter with additional education and those with money can have their paper put in a separate bin, those with special skills may get assistance hence a bin with a wider opening; for some unfortunate people though the bin may as well be moving.

RESPOND 2 0 SHARE

[rezaurrahmanr](#)
about 2 years ago



RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

[isaacs4aa328f1b](#)
about 2 years ago

Well, yes, in this simulation, but in the real world, you can't just end up in the upper class all of a sudden. It's much more complicated. It would cost blood, crime, or lies.

RESPOND 1 0 SHARE



bianx07

about 2 years ago

Is it still cheating/am I still under privileged when I ask for a person in the front row's seat when they're done?

RESPOND 0 0 SHARE



isaacs4aa328f1b

about 2 years ago

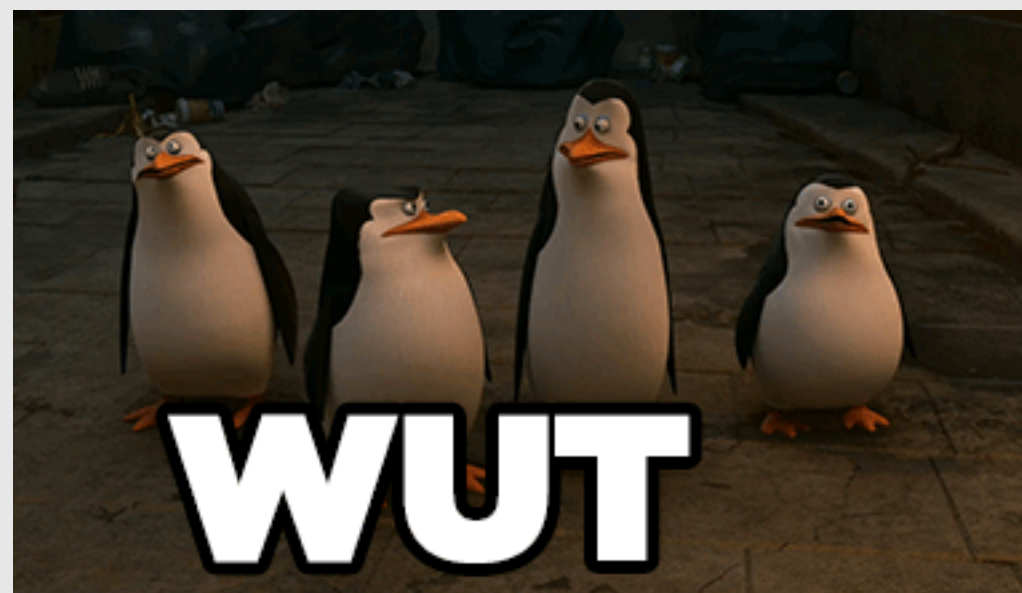
Unprivileged is not an excuse? Whoever made this isn't saying the unprivileged should get up and try harder, they're saying it's basically impossible for the unprivileged to be successful because of the society and circumstances they were born in. And by the unprivileged, they don't mean the people living on the streets in America, they mean people in impoverished third world countries where their economy is too terrible to provide an education for them. The children who actually do bust their ass to get a scrap of food but cant afford an education. America and other first world countries should be working toward a better future with progress, helping the world like our grandparents and those before us have been, but my peers throw it down the toilet and dont care. Some of you guys on here should be more open minded and think more about worldly problems, not just American problems.

RESPOND 2 0 SHARE



christophert12

about 2 years ago



RESPOND 1 1 SHARE



jamisonm3

about 2 years ago

all the comments about moving the chair, or learning to shoot better missed the point of this lesson.

the lesson is not for the students in the back, that they need to try harder, or break the rules. everyone will try their hardest, and breaking the rules just leaves others behind. the lesson is for the students in the front. they need to help change the rules for the whole class.

RESPOND 7 1 SHARE




jessicah43b453d68

about 2 years ago

I invite all participants in this debate to try and understand why they are disagreeing. I'm seeing the same arguments coming from both sides. We all agree that pre-judging people that we don't know and have never met because of superficial attributes is a bad idea. It leads to mistakes, and those mistakes can have life changing implications. It's certainly true that prejudice is still out there, and some of that prejudice is good - instinctive responses to people and situations can

save your life. But some of that prejudice is bad, and when black men are literally more likely to be shot by police than white men, just for walking down the street in the wrong neighbourhood then you can clearly identify that there's a very real problem. That doesn't mean that the white man is never going to suffer extreme prejudice, or isn't already suffering it. Have you ever seen what happens to an upper middle class white man who is accused of paedophilia? Forget innocent until proven guilty - that man's life is ruined right at that moment, even if the child recants and it turns out there's no proof. So prejudice is the problem here people, not the subject matter of the prejudice. To give you another example - sexism. There's still a lot of pressure on women to dress feminine in the workplace. It's difficult for women to dress comfortably and still look smart. Prejudice against women right? But have you ever seen what happens if an upper middle class white man tries to wear a dress and heels to work? Think about it.

RESPOND 4 0 SHARE

 [Desiancav](#)
about 2 years ago


Or you could get off your ass and walk to the front of the room and put your paper in the can. Underprivileged is not an excuse to underachieve

RESPOND 1 7 SHARE

 [Jwright7117](#)
about 2 years ago


I feel like you're looking only locally in this, at the microcosm that is your neighborhood. For me, this exercise is meant too highlight both those who live in first world nations but don't have the financial stability to achieve a proper education, as well as those who simply don't have access to the services of education, due in part to geography, but also so much more. How does someone who is unable to access the level of education that we are privileged with, supposed to advance in modern society as we see it? I know that, given some bad decisions as a youth, as well as circumstances far outside of my control, that if it hadn't been for the stability of my family, I may have never been able to finish my own education, and that's with the access and drive.

RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 [OMGanselelgor](#)
about 2 years ago



RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 [sanjanad2](#)
about 2 years ago



RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

Xobs
about 2 years ago



RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

Alani M. Vargas
about 2 years ago



RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

hannahmaverick
about 2 years ago




RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

doodahd
about 2 years ago


Privilege shaming?! Lol

RESPOND 0 3 SHARE

 thegingerninja64
about 2 years ago




RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 kyle403320bc9
about 2 years ago



RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 alyssab4a3bde0df
about 2 years ago

Although I do believe this is a good analogy for privilege, the problem in today's society is that people are shaming those who "sit in the front row." It is not their fault that they are at an advantage. They got the luck of the draw. Yes, it is absolutely essential for those in the front row to understand the struggles that those in the back are facing and use their privilege to bring them up, but it is not appropriate to shame those who just happened to already be up there. Some people are always going to have to work harder than others. But does that mean that the person in front should move his chair all the way to the back just to make things fair? NO! I think the problem with our generation is that people think life is supposed to be fair. And it is not!

RESPOND 2 2 SHARE

 michele capobianco
about 2 years ago

I'm not aware of the part of the conversation where people with privilege are being shamed. Nor do I agree that that is the problem in today's society. Do you have any examples of the shaming of the privileged?


I think this article is more about asking those in the front row to be aware and able to honestly acknowledge how much more attainable their goals are, just as much as those in the back row are aware and acknowledge the distance they are from their goals. Your comment derails the point of the article, effectively changing the topic. There is no request or requirement for front row kids to move to the back to make it fair or switch seats to give everyone a chance. Those who choose not to acknowledge privilege and do not want to be aware of it don't do themselves any favors, regardless of how close they are to the recycling bin.

RESPOND 4 0 SHARE

 **Merchillio**
about 2 years ago

The only “front row people” getting shamed a those blaming the people in the back for not throwing hard enough. You’re right that some are just lucky, it’s not ok to parade in médias like you carried your desk from the back in your arms to get there.

RESPOND 1 0 SHARE

 **GaianHelmers**
about a year ago

The thing that I struggle with conceptually that it’s a matter of scale and scope. Everyone is placing this analogy in the scope of, upper middle classed white North Americans to lower class or poverty stricken North Americans...

But when the scope is changed to say, billionaires vs millionaires or lower class North Americans to 3rd world citizens, then those at the back are now at the front, or those in the front are now at the back. It’s fractal in nature.

How about the upper class in 3rd world countries vs their poor, or the successful poor people vs unsuccessful poor people.

It just slowly cascades relatively from the most wealthy man to the least wealthy people.

It would need every person on board to properly adjust and fixed the imbalance and unfairness of privilege and advantage.

And then I think, do the boars or the rabbits convene with each other and beckon their brood to support and aid each other so that one rabbit is not superior to the others? When an elephant or a wolf or another pack animal is falling behind on their journey there is a point at which they fall off. It’s a shitty and miserable reality and no one wants to be that weakened animal, no animal wants to die. But it is an inevitability, the unflinching hand of nature, survival and time.

What is there to fix? We’re basically arguing to control nature and survival when we are still in the thick of it as any other animal is.

RESPOND 0 0 SHARE

 **mazariegosmelanie1**
about 2 years ago


That is the best lesson about privilege a persib has ever taught and or demonstrated!!!:D

RESPOND 2 3 SHARE

 **addisonm3**
about 2 years ago

Oh my god not everyone can be in the upper class. There has to naturally be some distribution of wealth that leans towards some people more than others. If everyone had money, shop prices would rise and it would hurt everyone

RESPOND 1 8 SHARE

 **Lizzo13**
about 2 years ago


Somebody missed the entire point of this...

RESPOND 5 0 SHARE

 **Bird123**
about 2 years ago


Seriously dude. The exercise is just trying give people some perspective to keep them from being self entitled assholes. It’s not some commie plot to steal your family’s riches.

RESPOND 8 2 SHARE

 **Joana**
about 2 years ago




 RESPOND  1  1  SHARE ▾

 **Kaikkuli**
about 2 years ago


Accidentally voted “hate”, so sorry

 RESPOND  0  0  SHARE ▾

 **sabbieluvv**
about 2 years ago


Gave me shivers. Bravo.

 RESPOND  0  0  SHARE ▾

 **sabbieluvv**
about 2 years ago


This gave me shivers. Bravo.

 RESPOND  0  0  SHARE ▾

 **rkcsouthern**
about 2 years ago

I would have picked up my chair, moved it right in front of the trashcan, sat back down and dropped the crumpled paper right in. Sometimes you have to make your own opportunities. Stop complaining or expecting others to make your dreams come true.

 RESPOND  3  8  SHARE ▾


 **doombird**
about 2 years ago


Due to zoning and code enforcement it is illegal to move your chair closer to the goal. If you'd had a closer chair to begin with you might be able to throw your paper into the Get a Good Lawyer basket, but you weren't able to make that shot from the back of the room, so you just won a jail sentence that goes on your permanent record and affects future employment. You'd better hurry up and create that opportunity you were talking about and stop riding off the system, freeloader.

 RESPOND  11  0  SHARE ▾

 **RavenMichelle**
about 2 years ago


If it were that easy, we would all be sitting in the front.

 RESPOND  3  0  SHARE ▾

 **sharpleyalicia**
about 2 years ago

Great lesson.

 RESPOND  1  0  SHARE ▾

 [tomo4](#)
about 2 years ago


They WILL try to define you by something as trivial as your skin color or your political party. Don't let them take away who you are as an individual and divide you from other human beings based on what neighborhood you grew up in. While I can't turn a blind eye to the fact that privilege exists I also won't sit and watch that fact brew hate and anger. We can find a solution. lets focus on that and actually judge people by the content of their character rather than their social standing.

 RESPOND  1  0  SHARE

 [wellcum](#)
about 2 years ago


You have the **right** to shoot, so stop complaining! There's only one society where everyone has equal **opportunity**, it's called Communism. Last time I checked, you people don't like it.

 RESPOND  1  5  SHARE

 [Jimhinco](#)
about 2 years ago


Communism removes opportunity - you don't get equal access to it

 RESPOND  3  0  SHARE

 [doombird](#)
about 2 years ago

"You have the right to shoot, so don't you dare complain that you're given a virtually nil chance to actually make it! Be happy with the scraps we give you!" That's a fantastic message. Good job perpetuating it!

 RESPOND  4  0  SHARE

 [devans00](#)
about 2 years ago




 RESPOND  0  0  SHARE

 [kelsonus](#)
about 2 years ago


The professor did his class a disservice by suggesting they could only take one shot
Perseverance should be the lesson taught here, not that you're screwed based on life circumstances

 RESPOND  6  2  SHARE

 [doombird](#)
about 2 years ago

Sure, you can take as many shots as you want, but the front row owns the paper factories.

 RESPOND  5  2  SHARE

 [raheembrachmononov](#)
about 2 years ago

white people really Hates being reminded that they have an advantage in America

 [jasonw23](#)
about 2 years ago


I understand there is white male privilege but what's the point of bringing it up? To give people an excuse for failure. I might be the least athletic, whitest person on the basketball court but I do the best I can with what I have to offer. I adjust. I wasn't born with God given ability. Instead of complaining about how hard it is to shoot, use that time to learn to shoot better, because that is where you are sitting.

It might change and I hope it does but for now that's where you sit. If I took the attitude of recognizing privilege everyday in that situation maybe I wouldn't play at all.

Basically keep tossing paper no matter where you're sitting, because the people in the front row definitely aren't going to stop.


 [Chancers](#)
about 2 years ago

It's not to give people a reason to give up, it's to teach them to recognize that what you have isn't what everyone else had and to be able to empathize with them, which is a skill that a lot of people sadly lack in today's day and age. The point of the assignment was to encourage students not to be completely myopic and instead try to take a person's circumstances into account.


 [jasminef2](#)
about 2 years ago

You have missed the point. Completely. Being born black is one strike. Another if your a man and two if you're a woman.

Being white you have an easier time. Of course not Abdul white people have it good but those who do are like Paris Hilton. Simply fashion for being fashion.

 [HotBiscuits](#)
about 2 years ago

Haha I call B.S. going off of your pic I'm assuming your a black female. Enough excuses, go get yours or be poor.

 [jsmlies](#)
about 2 years ago

motivation

 [matthewc4593d8aa3](#)
about 2 years ago

This is asinine. What this actually shows is the barriers government puts in the way of people trying to move up. If the teacher hadn't said the students had to stay in their seat, then students in the back could have simply walked to where the bin was and dropped the paper in with ease. The teacher made up a rule that made it harder for the kids in the back to make the shot the same way that government regulations often reduce opportunities for people to move up the ladder.

 [MMR](#)
about 2 years ago

There are barriers that hold someone back that should be illegal.

For instance, employers run credit reports on prospective hires. Even if the position has nothing to do with handling currency or financial accounts. If you are not from a financially comfortable background, you likely had to use credit

more, including credit cards in order to get out of a financial bind. Also, if you previously had lower income, that can be a problem for credit reports as well. Employers think of this as being telling of someone's character, but it has been proven to be a poor predictor of performance. If you start lower, you usually end up staying lower.

 RESPOND  7  0  SHARE ▾ 



deadrift
about 2 years ago

Wow dude put the kool aid down.

 RESPOND  2  0  SHARE ▾ 



doombird
about 2 years ago

At the same time, if the teacher hadn't set any rules at all, the front row kids could band together and steal the back row kids' paper so they couldn't shoot at all and thus presented less competition, or the back row kids could just murder the front row kids and take their desks. Total freedom rewards creativity, but it also rewards immorality. (Mindexplosion)

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