

Assumptions of White Privilege

(Based on Fr. Bryan Massingale)

In my relationship with an individual of color or with people of color generally do I...

- assume that my version of reality or truth would be more credible than that of a person of color.
- assume that as a white person I would have the presumption of innocence over a person of color.
- assume that the person of color would have a presumption of guilt.
- assume that in a confrontation with a person of color the police would take my side.
- assume that being white would be an advantage, that I would be believed because I am white.
- assume that a person of color's race would be a burden, even an insurmountable one.
- assume that the world should work for me and against the person of color.
- assume that I have the advantage in this situation.
- assume that I could exploit deeply ingrained white fears of people of color
- assume that I could use these deeply ingrained white fears to keep a person of color in their place.
- assume that if a person of color protested their innocence against me, they would be seen as "playing the race card."
- assume that no one would accuse a person of color of "playing the race card," because no one accuses white people of playing the race card when using race to their advantage.
- assume that a person of color knew that any confrontation with the police would not go well for them.
- assume that the frame of "black rapist" versus "white damsel in distress" would be clearly understood by everyone: the police, the press and the public.
- assume that the racial formation or fears of white people would work in my favor.
- assume that my knowledge of how white people view the world, and especially black men, would be to my advantage
- assume that a person of color has no right to tell a white person what to do.
- assume that the police officers would agree.
- assume that even if the police made no arrest, that a lot of white people would come to my defense and believe me anyway.
- assume that my family and friends would automatically understand all of the above.