

## Exercise 2: Privilege & Poverty Exercise

**Instructions:** Each person has two stacks of bills with \$200 in each stack. One stack #1 represents money that belongs to you and stack #2 represents money “from a pot”. For your response to each question below, you will either take money from the pot and add to your money, or you will give up some of your money and put it in the pot. Once all questions are covered, add up the remaining cash in your own pile. The maximum amount of cash you can have is \$400, where the least amount is \$0.

### When you were growing up:

1. *If either of your parents were professionals, doctors, lawyers, etc., take 2 bills*
2. If you were raised in an area where there was prostitution, drug activity, etc., close by, give up 1 bill
3. *If there were more than 50 books in your house, take 1 bill*
4. If you ever had to skip a meal or were hungry because there was not enough money to buy food, give up 2 bills
5. *If you were taken to museums, art galleries, or plays by your parent or parents, take 1 bill*
6. If one of your parents was unemployed or laid off, not by choice, give up 1 bill
7. *If you attended a private school, take 2 bills*
8. If your family ever had to move because they could not afford the rent, give up 1 bill
9. *If prior to age 18, you took a vacation out of the country, take 2 bills*
10. If you had to rely primarily on public transportation because you could not afford a car, give up 1 bill
11. *If you were generally able to avoid places that were dangerous, take 1 bill*
12. If you had to share a bedroom with more than one person, give up 1 bill
13. *If you got new clothes at the beginning of each school year, take 1 bill*
14. If you had to work after school to help support the family, give up 2 bills
15. *If you had any hired help (maid, servant, nanny) in your home, take 2 bills*
16. If you grew up in a family, where parents were separated or divorced, give up 1 bill
17. *If you had a television in your home, take 1 bill*
18. If you could not afford to go to a dentist at least once a year, give up 1 bill

19. If your family was ever on welfare or social assistance, give up 1 bill
20. *If you always had fresh fruit and vegetables to eat, take 1 bill*
21. If you were ever teased and/or felt embarrassed at school because you couldn't afford to dress like the other kids, give up 1 bill
22. *If your family owned your own house, take 2 bills*
23. If you ever ate at a "soup kitchen" or got food at a food bank, give up 2 bills
24. *If your parent or parents ever owned a new car, take 2 bills*
25. If you commonly had rodent or insect problems in your home, give up 1 bill
26. If your parent or parents had trouble paying the bills, give up 1 bill
27. *If you generally had at least two pairs of footwear at any one time, take 1 bill*
28. If either of your parents had to work at more than one job to make ends meet, give up 1 bill?
29. If you ever went "dumpster diving" or looking through others garbage/castoffs for food or other goods, give up 2 bills
30. *If your family ate out routinely, take 1 bill*