# Social Location

In this exercise think about your social location i.e. race, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability). Social location also includes employment and type of employment, friends and social circles, location of your home and type of home, where you shop and feel comfortable shopping; in short, any aspect of yourself that contributes to your status in social groups. Social location can also include less tangible markers such as how you perceive yourself, how you think others perceive you, level of institutional authority, etc. Here are some questions to get you started. Feel free to write or draw your answers to share with your group. We’ll take a few minutes to do this and then ask one member from each group to report back on the common themes that came up.

1. What are your social locations: race, class, gender identity, disability identity, sexual orientation, employment status, type of employment, group memberships etc.? Have any of these changed over time such as when you were a child or in high school or college? Do you anticipate any of them changing in the future?
2. Name a time when you have been denied access to resources because of one of your social locations. Conversely, name a time when you may have oppressed someone because of one of your social locations. How do you feel about each one of these experiences?
3. Now think about your social locations within your institution or other workplace. What do they tell you about how you navigate institutional and systemic power? How you navigate institutional and systemic oppression?
4. How can you use your reflections and answers from question three to be a better ally in your work? How will you use the understanding of privilege and oppression to facilitate change on an institutional and systemic level? Do you want to?