

## I. Instructions

- a. Bring students to a space big enough for them to spread out shoulder to shoulder and to be able to walk forward and backward at least 50 feet. An outdoor open space is ideal.
- b. Instruct students to stand in a line facing the same direction.
- c. Once the exercise begins, students should listen carefully to each sentence and take a step forward or backward, as instructed, if the sentence is true for them.
- d. Before beginning, remind students that the purpose of the exercise is to prompt a thoughtful discussion and consideration of what constitutes environmental or sustainability privilege and how people's privilege may differ based on their childhood experiences. The atmosphere should be respectful and curious, not judgmental.
- e. Let students know that they can decline to step forward or backward if they feel uncomfortable doing so in response to any of the sentences.

## II. Sustainability privilege-walk sentences:

1. Please take one-step back: If your ancestors in the last 200 years were forced off their native land.
2. Please take one-step forward: If someone in your home cooked meals for you as a child.
3. Please take one-step back: If you were ever exposed to lead in your home.
4. Please take one-step forward: If there were woods and fields near your home that you could freely roam in as a child.
5. Please take one-step back: If you grew up in an urban neighborhood without a nearby park.
6. Please take one-step forward: If one or both of your parents took you camping.
7. Please take one-step back: If you were raised in an area near a landfill, a garbage incinerator, a power plant, or industrial factories.
8. Please take one-step back: If you ever had to stay inside because of air pollution warnings.
9. Please take one-step forward: If you learned about environmental topics in elementary or high school.
10. Please take one-step back: If you went to a school with **little** natural landscape (such as prairie or trees) on the playground.
11. Please take one-step forward: if someone in the house you grew up in taught you the names of plants and animals in your area.
12. Please take one-step back: If you ate fast food meals more than twice a week as a child.
13. Please take one-step back: If you suffer from asthma.
14. Please take one-step forward: If you attended summer camp situated in a natural area.
15. Please take one-step back: If your family ever had to move because of environmental contamination.
16. Please take one-step back: If you did **not** have access to a garden as a youth.
17. Please take one-step forward: If you could assume your drinking water was safe to drink.
18. Please take one-step back: If you have **never** been to a National Park (in whatever country).
19. Please take one-step forward: If your family made an effort to eat organic food.
20. Please take one-step forward: If you have been in a place with no light pollution so you could see all the stars at night.

21. Please take one-step back: If your family used pesticides or herbicides in your home or yard.
22. Please take one-step back: If you did not feel safe playing outside in your neighborhood.
23. Please take one-step back: If your childhood home is within ½ mile of a freeway.
24. Please take one-step forward: If you use a bike because you want to, not because you have no choice.
25. Please take one-step forward: If your family bought food from a farmers market or directly from a farm.

### **III. Post-exercise discussion**

- a. Give participants a chance to look at how they are spread through the space. Once everyone has looked around, invite them to sit down for a discussion.
- b. Possible questions:
  - i. What did you notice during this exercise?
  - ii. How did you feel during the sustainability privilege walk? How did it feel to move forward (or to move backward) in response to specific statements?
  - iii. Are there any statements you would like to know more about?
  - iv. What will you take away from this experience?