

Case Studies for Privilege Walk

Case Study #1

This individual is an African-American male who was born in New York and moved to North Carolina when he was a toddler. His father was in the military, and while his mother attended college for a short time, she was homesick and dropped out. This person was the fourth of five children. He attended public high school and competed in athletics in high school but was cut from his varsity basketball team during his sophomore year. This individual attended college on a scholarship but only attended for three years, so he did not graduate. This person is right handed but is also adept at also using their left hand for some activities. This person has been accused of having a gambling addiction. This individual has been married twice and is currently married to a Brazilian model; he has three children from his first marriage and two from his second. His father was shot while driving home from a funeral and was killed, this individual was very close to his father and was deeply impacted by the loss.

Case Study #2

This individual is a Caucasian male who was born in Connecticut. His father was attending Yale at the time of his birth. After his father had graduated from Yale, the family moved to Texas and as the family grew, moved to larger houses all of which they owned. He had five younger siblings. His father was in the oil industry, and the family was relatively wealthy. He attended the private and prestigious Phillips Andover Academy in Massachusetts for high school and followed in his father's footsteps in attending Yale with assistance from the family legacy for admittance. After graduation, he attended Harvard Business school for his graduate studies. He married a woman who was a librarian, and they have two adult children. He attempted to run a baseball team but failed and had to sell the team. This individual has admitted to having a drinking problem and has been arrested for a DUI. He credits his Christian faith with helping to overcome these challenges.

Case Study #3

This individual was born in Cleveland, Ohio. She is of mixed race; her mother is American born and of English and German decent, her father is African-American. She has one sister, and her parents were divorced when she was five. She grew up primarily in a single parent household and is estranged from her father who was abusive to her mother. She graduated Bedford Public High School and attended Cuyahoga community college. In her early 20s, she had no money because she could not get any job acting, and had to live for a short time in a homeless shelter. She has been married and divorced three times to an athlete, a musician, and an actor and has two children with her third husband.

Case Study #4

This individual was born in England and attended the highly prestigious Eton private school and later graduated from St. Andrew's University. He was an excellent swimmer and was impacted by his parent's divorce while he was in his teens and later his mother's early death. He is Caucasian, left-handed and has served in the military. As a teenager, his looks were publically criticized which made him very self-conscious. This person is very wealthy has multiple homes and has hired help to assist he and his wife in caring for their two children. His wife is his long time love whom he met at University. He spends a good deal of time on charities such as working with AIDS victims and those who are otherwise disadvantaged.

Case Study #5

This person was born in Georgia and raised Catholic; she is Caucasian. Her parents divorced when she was four, and her mother later remarried an alcoholic and abusive individual with whom she did not get along. Her father died when she was ten, and she has three siblings and one step-sibling. This person was estranged from her brother for quite some time, and her step-sister died of a drug overdose. She attended public schools and attended college for a time but did not graduate. This person has often been made fun of, initially for being too thin or for having a "horse-like smile". This individual is left-handed. This person has been married twice (the first marriage ended in divorce after less than two years), she is currently married to a man who was a production assistant on the set of one of her movies and has three children from her second marriage.

Case Study #6

This individual was born in Ontario Canada. He is the youngest of four children and was raised Catholic; he is Caucasian. He worked as a custodian in his teens 8 hours a day to help support his family, they lost their home because they could not afford the payments on the mortgage. They moved into a trailer, which they parked on a relative's lawn. He attended a public high school but received poor grades once he began working, neither he nor his parents attended University. When this person was first attempting to make a living through performing impersonations, he was often ridiculed and told he was no good; his parents, however, believed he could do anything he wanted and encouraged him to pursue his dreams. He has battled depression throughout his life and has been medicated with Prozac many have said he has addiction issues with prescription medications. A co-worker once told him that he could not stand him or "his buffoonery" and others have publically criticized his acting ability. This individual has been married and divorced twice and has one daughter from his first marriage. His ex-girlfriend took her own life; many believe because they had just broken up.

Case Study #7

This individual was born in Seattle, he is Caucasian and was born into an affluent family, he father was a lawyer with a Law degree from the University of Washington, and his mother did much volunteer work and was the daughter of a wealthy banker. He attended private school and was very bright but was bullied for being a “nerd”. He attended Harvard for two years but dropped out to form his own company. While this seemed like a crazy idea, his parents supported his decision and had faith in his success. This individual is married a woman he met at work and they have three children. He is left-handed. This person is very wealthy and has started a foundation for improving education and providing safe drinking water primarily to those in African countries.

Case Study #8

This individual is of mixed racial background (African and Caucasian). His parents met while attending university and both would go on to earn postgraduate degrees. When he parents were married, his father was still married to another woman in Africa but he did not tell anyone at the time. His parents divorced when he was very young, and he did not have much communication with his father, his father left the family to continue his education in Boston at Harvard College. This individual and his mother moved to Indonesia with her new husband, and he has a half sister who is Indonesia and Caucasian. He spent his formative years with his grandparents in Hawaii. His grandparents were middle class, but he attended private schools from grade school through his graduate work at Harvard Law School. He had identity issues growing up as he did not look like those around him and he was made fun of for `being different`. As an adult he has been criticized for his religion, ethnicity, and policies. He is left-handed and is married to a woman who is also a lawyer by training; together they have two children.

Case Study #9

This individual is a Caucasian male born into extraordinary wealth. He was the fourth of five children. One his brothers died of alcoholism when he was a teen, which has caused this individual to abstain from cigarettes or alcohol. This person attended private school but transferred to a military academy because of behavioral problems. He inherited his father’s business, which he took over after graduation from university. His father believed he could be make money in business and entrusted him to do so with the family business. He is left-handed. He has been married three times and is currently married to a model and jewelry designer, he has five children. He has declared bankruptcy multiple times but remains tremendously wealthy. He has been bullied by the by the media for his appearance and for making outrageous statements.

Case Study #10

This person is a Caucasian female who was born in Iowa but spent most of her childhood growing up in a trailer park in Washington State. She attended public schools but never graduated from high school, in part because she suffered from ADHD and felt ostracized because of the condition. Her classmates bullied her because of where she lived and the clothes she wore. Her mother, however, believed she could become anything she wanted and encouraged her to pursue her dreams in acting. She has one older brother; her parents divorced when she was 15 years old. After the divorce, she and her mother lived out of their car for a short time and her mother worked extra hours to save enough money to rent an apartment. She was married for ten years to a fellow actor before filing for divorce, they did not have any children.

