



## Power Walk

The goal of this activity is to help students recognize the disparities in decision making power that exist in our society. They will hopefully leave with a personal sense of responsibility, especially towards those who hold less power than themselves.

This tool is excellent for training student leaders in advocacy.

### Instructions

1. Find a large open room.
2. Distribute the attached “roles” to your gathered group of students.
3. Instruct the group, “Please line up across the wall. Each paper you’ve selected has a role. I will ask some questions and if you believe that your answer is yes, then take a step forward.”
4. Ask the following questions...
  - Can you vote?
  - Can you travel to another country?
  - Do you receive a salary?
  - Do you get benefits (vacation, sick leave)?
  - Can you influence a law?
  - Do you have at least two years of college?
  - If you make at least 20K a year/ 50K/ 100K
  - Can you welcome a visiting foreign dignitary?
  - Can you veto a bill?
  - Do you supervise other staff?
  - Can you influence public opinion?
  - Are people in your position commonly looked up to?
  - Are you good looking?

### Reflection Questions

1. Who went forward the furthest? How did you feel?
2. Who stayed behind? How did you feel?
3. Could you do something to change your particular situation?
4. What gives people power?
5. What’s the power and responsibility of a college student?
6. In developing countries, what power might women and children have?

Grade School Student

President of USA

CEO of Microsoft

Priest

Diplomat

TV anchor

CEO of GE

Four star General

Medical Doctor

NGO worker

Mayor of Philly

Editor of Time  
magazine

Writer for NY times

Celebrity

Foreign diplomat

Congress staffer

Undocumented migrant

Convict

Stay-at-home mom

Elementary Teacher

Parish Secretary

Car mechanic

Enlisted soldier

Model

Cashier at Walmart

Hospital cleaner

Restaurant worker

Campus cafeteria  
worker

Waitress

Paper mill worker

Coal miner

Worker at meat packing

Senator

Supreme Court Justice

District Attorney

Lawn-care worker

Gas station attendant

Road construction  
worker

Store clerk

plant

McDonald's employee

Dishwasher at Olive  
Garden

Janitor

Car salesman

Drug dealer