Day 3 - What is Intersectionality?

"Some problems we share as women, some we do not. You fear your children will grow up to join the patriarchy and testify against you; we fear our children will be dragged from a car and shot down in the street, and you will turn your backs on the reasons they are dying." -Audre Lorde, Author

Intersectionality is defined as the study of overlapping systems of oppression or discrimination that stack against individuals of different races, genders and sexualities. Intersectionality asserts that embedded in identifiers like race, gender and sexuality are hierarchies that can positively or negatively influence outcomes and biases held against you. The theory of intersectionality fundamentally describes how individuals have personal identities that intersect in ways that impact how they are viewed, understood and privileged. For example, Black women are both Black and women but because they are *Black women,* they experience a different form of discrimination than Black men and white women. The same is true of those with differing sexual orientations. Gay Black men can experience the discrimination of being Black *and* gay because their identifiers intersect with both.

Today's Challenge:

OPTION 1: Listen to Kimberlé Crenshaw's TED talk, The Urgency of Intersectionality. Crenshaw coined the term "intersectionality" back in 1982 to describe discrimination in the rule of law. Now that idea has extended beyond the legal realm to describe evolution of society. (18 minutes)

OPTION 2: Listen to Teaching Tolerance's definition and case study of intersectionality across the gender, race and social spectrum. (3 minutes)

OPTION 3: Read this comic explaining the process of how privilege helps pre-determine outcomes and success disproportionately among those who have it and those who don't. (5 minutes)

OPTION 4: Sit down and facilitate a conversation with your child or younger relative on what privilege is and how they can identify it in their day-to-day lives. (8 minutes)