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Critical Discourse: Thinking about Power, Privilege, and Voice

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We Can Do Better: Empowering People to Affect Change

When first year students enter the university, it is often their first experience being away from home for a significant amount of time, and odds are, they have a singular worldview developed by being around like-minded people from home. Resident Advisors at BGSU recognize that many of their students have not had the space or opportunity to discuss issues surrounding diversity and inclusion. In order for these desired conversations to take place, students need a vehicle providing content that is easy to understand and accessible. *We Can Do Better* is aimed at creating a space for a dialogue to occur, designed to facilitate conversation around the relationship of resources and identity. As a college student, engaging with difficult or unfamiliar topics is easier when participating in low-pressure, casual settings. Students will have to take chances and make choices, and may change their view of how opportunity affects everyone so they can make informed decisions.

It is not the goal of this project to solve underlying systemic issues, but to raise awareness in the next generation that will shape our culture by addressing issues surrounding privilege and identities. *We Can Do Better* intends for students to expand their knowledge of privileged identities in their community, understand constructed social systems through a dialogue of anecdotal evidence, gain empathy for those with less privilege, and encourage a mindset that is less judgmental of others. By framing this project in the context of a game, participants should be able to see themselves through the gameplay by identifying and recognizing their relationships with others in cultural/social spheres (seeing where the system benefits them more or less). One intended outcome of the game is for those of us with more social privilege to recognize our inherent discomfort, accept that this discomfort is necessary to grow, and work hard by utilizing our privilege to achieve equity for all identities.