Privileged paper toss

**Original source**: Nathan W. Pyle

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/nathanwpyle/this-teacher-taught-his-class-a-powerful-lesson-about-privil?bffb>

**Materials needed**:

* Piece of paper for each participant
* A bin at which to throw the paper

**Approximate time needed**: 5-10 minutes

**Procedure**:

1. Give each student a scrap piece of paper
2. Ask them to crumple it up.
3. Move the recycling bin to the front of the room.
4. “You all represent the country’s population. And everyone in the country has a chance to become wealthy and move into the upper class.”
5. “To move into the upper class, all you must do is throw your wadded-up paper into the bin while sitting in your seat.”
6. Throw papers…
7. Debrief the experience.
   * “The closer you were to the recycling bin, the better your odds. This is what privilege looks like. Did you notice how the only ones who complained about fairness were in the back of the room?”
   * “By contrast, people in the front of the room were less likely to be aware of the privilege they were born into. All they can see is 10 feet between them and their goal.”
   * “Your job — as students who are receiving an education — is to be aware of your privilege. And use this particular privilege called “education” to do your best to achieve great things, all the while advocating for those in the rows behind you.”