

# #SafetyPinBox - Task 0.0

## Power Mapping Your Sphere of Influence

When we talk about systems of oppression, and specifically when we talk about anti-Blackness, we are talking about power. Who has the power over resources? Who has power over their lives? Who does not? To call for liberation is to radically shift power. We believe that all justice work involves redirecting power from the most powerful (privileged, oppressors) to the most marginalized (the oppressed).

The creation of whiteness and white supremacy is a way to centralize power amongst one group of people. Fighting back against that will require honest and continual assessment of power flows in your life and how to redirect them. Over the course of the month you will learn more about power mapping, and identify streams of power in both your personal life and in your community. You will end the month with a commitment to redirecting power in your life in a few tangible ways.

Share your progress online & discuss this task using:

**#PinBoxPowerMapping**

 @SafetyPinBox  /SafetyPinBox [SafetyPinBox.com](http://SafetyPinBox.com)

## Week 1

### What is Power Mapping?

This week is about researching power mapping.

- Start by taking a look at [Movetoamend.org](http://Movetoamend.org)'s "Guide To Power Mapping". Also check out [advocatesforyouth.org](http://advocatesforyouth.org)'s "Youth Activist's Toolkit".
- Find one example of how a Black campaign used power mapping to create change (Hint: Chicago). These examples are more organizational and not strictly about racism, but they provide a good foundation for thinking about power as we do our own version of power mapping on our lives.
- Pick a one-on-one setting that you are involved in during the week and keep a power mapping journal of the occasion.
- Look up the definition of "sphere of influence".

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## Week 2 Power Mapping Your Personal Life

- Now it is time to identify the flows of power in your spheres of influence.
- Write down your entire budget and where you spend your money.
- List all your work connections and social groups you belong to, including faith communities and parent organizations. Include your personal networks, family members, and friendships.
- Write down the means of power people in your networks have, including money and influence. Don't forget your social media or the barista who gets your morning coffee. List all the ways big and small that you hold power.

Now, is that power being directed towards white folks? Black folks? Are there areas in your life where you exert direct power over Black people?

Spend a few days going over this list and adding to it as you go through your week. You'll find you have a lot of power.

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## Week 3 Power Mapping Your Community

Do the same power mapping you did last week but now for your community (neighborhood, church, town, etc.).

- How does power flow in your community?
- Who are the most marginalized? Be sure to do research on the statistics of Black incarceration and wealth gaps in your area too.
- Pick at least one group setting that you are involved with during the week (meeting, party, class, etc.) and keep a power mapping journal of the occasion.
- Write down who held power in the
  - room and why and how you think
  - power was directed.

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