

## b. Minimization

To represent as having at a least degree of importance or value.

Today some dominant group members may talk about race and gender issues and minimize racism and sexism by saying, “Personal achievement mostly depends on personal ability. Racism or sexism isn’t prevalent anymore.”

## c. Deflection

A person employing a Deflection defense may make a comment that avoids coming to terms with the realities of racism or heterosexism by deflecting the focus toward a less threatening target such as another individual or institution.

## d. Rationalization

This defense can be identified by behavior in which an individual supplies a logical response regarding why atrocities happen in the realm of racism, sexism, heterosexism, and ableism.

An individual might present an alternative reason that does not require him or her to explore the roots of injustice in more depth.

## e. Intellectualization

An Intellectualization defense can be identified when a person avoids feeling dissonant by focusing on the intellectual aspects associated with the topics of social injustice.

Goodman’s example of intellectualization can lead us to understand that intellectualization can be used to not only project power, but to also guard against the loss of it.

## f. Principium

This defense can be identified by behaviors where one is avoiding exploration based on a religious or personal principle.

A person using this philosophy might state, “I find it upsetting and disheartening that homosexuals, or anyone for that matter, would have to bear such injustices. However, I do not believe that it is an injustice or discriminatory act to not allow homosexuals couples to cross the threshold of qualifications to be married.”

## g. Benevolence

A benevolence defense is when one presents behavior that displays an overly sensitive attitude toward a social and political issue based on a charity act.

## 7. Become Personally Aware of Privilege

- a. To decode your social identity, examine your memberships in empowered groups: