

Intellectual Character Self-Assessment

For each of the following statements, rate yourself from 1-5 using the scale below. Be as honest as possible (there's no point in distorting the truth here!). Do not turn the paper over until you have assigned a number to each statement.

1: Very different from me

2: Different from me

3: Neither different nor like me

4: Like me

5: Very much like me

1. ____ I am eager to explore new things.
2. ____ I often think of questions about what I read, watch, or observe.
3. ____ I sometimes wonder how things work or why things are the way they are.
4. ____ I enjoy reading non-fiction or historical fiction and watching documentaries and TV channels like Discovery and History.
5. ____ It's easy for me to admit when I am wrong.
6. ____ I feel ok when I don't know the answer.
7. ____ I have a lot to learn.
8. ____ I am slow to correct other people's mistakes.
9. ____ I am an independent thinker.
10. ____ It's easy to come up with new ideas on my own.
11. ____ When I get stuck on a problem, I am usually able to work through it on my own.
12. ____ I tend to think differently from my peers.
13. ____ I avoid using information out of context.
14. ____ I refrain from exaggerating when I re-tell a story about something that has happened.
15. ____ I avoid claiming others' work as my own.
16. ____ I avoid cheating.
17. ____ I always read directions before starting something.
18. ____ I check facts before believing something or disseminating information.
19. ____ I double check my work.
20. ____ I rarely make careless mistakes in my work.
21. ____ I am good at explaining things to people.
22. ____ My answers to questions, written or oral, tend to be on the long side.
23. ____ I'm not content until I understand what I am learning.
24. ____ I often make connections between different sets of information.
25. ____ I tend to think about issues from multiple perspectives.
26. ____ I am comfortable being around people who disagree with me about important topics.
27. ____ I have changed my mind about something after hearing someone's explanation.
28. ____ I enjoy learning why people believe what they believe.
29. ____ I am willing to answer questions even if I think my answer might be wrong.
30. ____ I stand up for what I believe.
31. ____ When my opinion is different from others', I still share it.
32. ____ I'm not afraid of asking questions in a group.
33. ____ I continue thinking about difficult problems even when I can't find a solution.
34. ____ I enjoy intellectual challenges.
35. ____ When I get frustrated with a problem, I stick with it.
36. ____ I do not view intellectual failure as a final judgement of my abilities.

*Adapted from "Intellectual Character Self-Assessment" by Dr. Jason Baehr. Used with permission.

Transfer the total for each set to the list below. This will give you the score for each virtue:

Add #1-4: ____ = Score for intellectual curiosity

Add #21-24: ____ = Score for intellectual thoroughness

Add #5-8: ____ = Score for intellectual humility

Add #25-28: ____ = Score for intellectual fair-Mindedness

Add #9-12: ____ = Score for intellectual autonomy

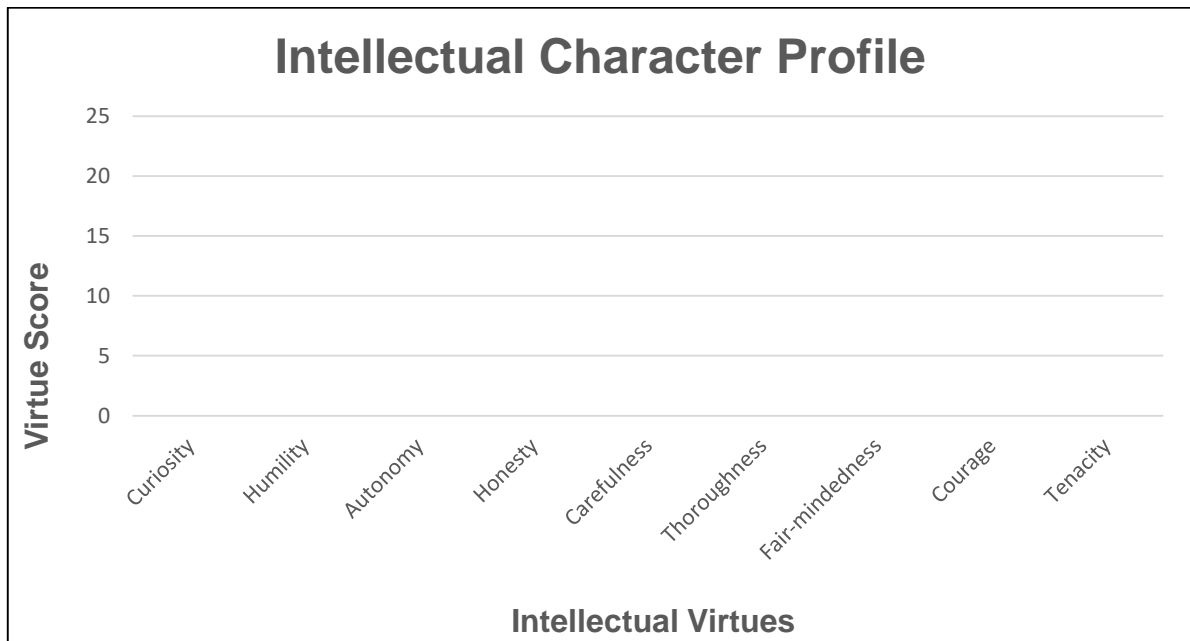
Add #29-32: ____ = Score for intellectual courage

Add #13-16: ____ = Score for intellectual honesty

Add #33-36: ____ = Score for intellectual tenacity

Add #17-20: ____ = Score for intellectual carefulness

Now use your scores to make a bar graph. This is your Intellectual Character Profile.



Discussion Questions

Think about answers to the following questions. Be prepared to discuss your answers.

1. Which of the virtues are your strengths?
2. Which of the virtues do you most need to develop?
3. Do any of your strengths or weaknesses surprise you? Which one(s)? Why?
4. Looking back at your life so far, how have your strengths helped you?
5. Looking back at your life so far, how have your weaknesses hurt you?