

Rosslyn Academy National Honor Society

Intellectual Character Assessment

At Rosslyn Academy our aim is not just to turn out students who have mastered a certain body of knowledge or have achieved a certain GPA. Instead, we aim to produce students who are earnest seekers of Truth and, as a result, have developed fundamental intellectual character traits that will lead them into truth as they go through life – both inside and outside the classroom. Students who gain admission into Rosslyn Academy chapter of the National Honor Society should be examples of outstanding intellectual character. Please help us in assessing this student’s intellectual character by filling out the form below.

Intellectual Tenacity

Someone who is *intellectually tenacious* is someone who earnestly wants to know Truth; and so they... are not willing to give up when they find an assignment difficult or boring. They are determined to fight through the difficulty in order to gain a deeper understanding of the material.

In your class, to what degree does this student demonstrate a willingness to press on in the face of a significant intellectual challenge?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
(“0” means “Never” and “10” means “Always”)

Intellectual Curiosity

Someone who is *intellectually curious* is someone who earnestly wants to know Truth; and so they... are always asking, “why?” They are not satisfied with the easy and simplistic answers, but have a desire to understand what makes it all work – at the foundational level. The intellectually curious person regularly asks questions in class and is an active participant in class discussion.

In your class, to what degree does this student demonstrate a passion for truth?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Intellectual Fair-mindedness

Someone who is *intellectually fair-minded* is someone who earnestly wants to know Truth; and so they... consider everything in an unbiased way. If they come to an issue with a preconceived view, they don’t tune someone else out simply because that person’s view contradicts their own. Instead they listen attentively and reconsider their own view in light of the new information. “They seek to know, not to be right”.

In your class, to what degree does this student demonstrate a willingness to put the pursuit of truth above their current opinion?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Intellectual Courage

Someone who is *intellectually courageous* is someone who earnestly wants to know Truth; and so they... take risks in the pursuit of truth. They are willing to reconsider their own beliefs, even if this scares them. But once they have done so, and come to a belief about what is true, they are willing to stick to their guns,

even if the majority mocks or threatens them. The intellectually courageous student is willing to take risks in class assignments in the pursuit of truth.

In your class, to what degree does this student demonstrate a willingness to risk – either in the pursuit, or defense, of truth?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Intellectual Carefulness

Someone who is *intellectually careful* is someone who earnestly wants to know Truth; and so they... make sure not to rush to hasty conclusions based on limited evidence, but instead are patient and diligent, careful that they do not overlook important details. The intellectually careful person checks their work on math problems, proofreads their essays and is generally concerned about getting it right.

In your class, to what degree does this student demonstrate intellectual carefulness?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Intellectual Humility

Someone who is *intellectually humble* is someone who earnestly wants to know Truth; and so they... recognize that they are capable error and finite. As a result, they actually rejoice when they are proved wrong because it means they have grown in their understanding of God's Truth. In short, the intellectually humble person is subservient to truth, not the other way around. The practical result is that they listen carefully to the ideas and opinions of others, demonstrating respect in how they ask questions and in how they accept critiques of their work.

In your class, to what degree does this student demonstrate intellectual humility?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Intellectual Honesty

Unlike the other intellectual character traits intellectual honesty is not primarily about the process of getting knowledge, but rather how we choose to use or present the knowledge we already have – it is the link between the rest of our thinking and our actions. Because their main objective is to help others get at the truth, the intellectually honest person is consistently careful not to use information taken out of context, to distort the truth by describing it with loaded language, or to otherwise mislead through the manipulation of statistics or any other type of supporting evidence. In addition, the intellectually honest person does not take credit for ideas or evidence that are not their own, and so is careful to cite (in both spoken and written communication) the work of others whenever it is used.

In your class, to what degree does this student demonstrate intellectual honesty?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Thank you for taking the time to carefully consider this student's intellectual character. Please add up the seven categories and place the total (0-70) at the bottom of the page. **Note: this assessment form was first created by the Bear Creek School and has been adapted by Rosslyn Academy for a similar purpose.**