

Pigonality Profile

Light-hearted personality profile gets students talking, thinking

If the Myers-Briggs Personality Indicator leaves you cold, try a substitute, says Gordon Cotton: the Pig Personality Profile. It may not be sound science, he says, but it's good for a lot of laughs, gets people talking, and gives students an unusual and interesting topic of conversation for their first course break.

Cotton gives students the following instructions: "On a blank piece of paper, draw a pig. Don't look at your neighbor's pig. Don't even glance." He provides no further guidance and does not explain the purpose of the exercise.

When participants are finished, he shares his tongue-in-cheek explanation that the pig serves as a useful test of the personality traits of the artist. He tells the class if the pig is drawn:

- Toward the top of the paper, you are a positive, optimistic person,
- Toward the middle of the page (top to bottom), you are a realist,
- Toward the bottom of the page, you are pessimistic and have a tendency to behave negatively,
- Facing left, you believe in tradition, are friendly, and remember dates, including birthdays,
- Facing forward (looking toward you), you are direct, enjoy playing devil's advocate, and neither fear nor avoid discussions,
- Facing right, you are innovative and active but don't have a strong sense of family, nor do you remember dates,
- With many details, you are analytical, cautious, and distrustful,
- With few details, you are emotional and naïve; you care little for details and are a risk – taker,
- With less than four legs showing, you are insecure or are living through a period of major change; with four legs showing, you are secure, stubborn, and stick to your ideals.
- Further the size of the pig's ears indicates how good a listener the artist is – large is good. And the length of the pig's tail – again, more is better - indicates the quality of the artist's sex life.

Says Cotton: "I won't attest to the accuracy of the results, other than to guarantee some laughter and amusement. I have delivered this test to about 400 participants and have not offended anyone yet. Cotton is a trainer at Marine Atlantic, Inc., Monchton, New Brunswick, Canada, (506) 851 –3679.

Additional resources:

<http://www.selfgrowth.com/test.html>

<http://members.aol.com/TRVTH/index2.htm>