

The Pig Personality Profile

Purpose: This icebreaker is not scientific, but it's good for a lot of laughs, gets students thinking and talking and sets the stage for a good team building experience.

The Pig Personality Profile is short and simple.

Step 1: Divide students into small teams.

Step 2: Give students the following instructions: On a blank piece of 8 1/2 x 11 paper, draw a pig. Don't look at your neighbors' pigs. Don't even glance. Emphasize that there is no right or wrong way to draw their pig. This is not a competition or art contest. Say no more. Do not explain the purpose of the exercise. Give the students just two - three minutes to complete their drawings of a pig.

Step 3: Ask group members to show his or her pig to the rest of the team. Make sure that it is "safe environment" for the participants to share their drawings with one another. Let team members know this exercise should be fun!

Step 4: Explain in a friendly fashion how their pig drawings are a useful test of their personality traits. By identifying our personality traits to our group members it is often easier to understand the actions of others, get along better as a team and we can work to improve our not so "positive" traits. Tell students that the team members are now going to learn a little about themselves and each other, their personality traits and how they work with others.

Step 5: Ask the students to take some notes as you "interpret" their drawings.

- 1) If the pig is drawn towards the top of the paper you are perceived as a positive and optimistic person by others.
- 2) If the pig is drawn towards the middle of the page you are perceived as a realist.
- 3) If the pig is drawn towards the bottom of the page, you are perceived as a pessimistic person and can have the tendency to become negative when under pressure.
- 4) If the pig is facing to the left, you believe in tradition, are friendly and remember details, dates and birthdays.
- 5) If the pig is facing forward (towards you) you are a direct person; neither fear nor avoid discussion, enjoy playing "the devil's advocate", and enjoy "stirring the pot" to promote change.
- 6) If the pig is facing to the right you are innovative, creative and active; you have but you may have a poor memory of details, dates and birthdays.
- 7) If the pig is drawn with many details you see yourself as analytical and cautious. Others must work hard to earn your trust and to keep it.
- 8) If the pig is drawn with few details you are a risk taker; wear your emotions on your sleeve and are not as concerned about details.
- 9) If the pig is drawn with (four) 4 legs showing you are secure, stick to your beliefs/ideals and have been told at least once in your life that you can be stubborn.
- 10) If the pig is drawn with less than 4 legs showing you are living through a period of major change in your life and not feeling very secure with your decisions.

11) The larger the pig's ears you have drawn, the better listener you are.

12) And last but not least...the longer the pig's tail that you have drawn (including curly loops) the more satisfied you are or will be with your career choice.

Step 6: Make sure that students understand that it is not a research based or serious test of personality traits. It is just for fun and to get them thinking about what personality traits may relate to them. Take a minute to have students **create a "personality statement"** based on the criteria listed above.

Example:

Because I drew the pig near the top of the paper in the right hand corner, my personality is that of a positive and optimistic person. The pig is facing left so I tend to believe in traditions, I am friendly, and I remember dates/details easily. My pig's tail is really curly and long which explains why I know that I want to go to school after high school graduation to become Dentist.

Step 7: The final step...**Debriefing Questions:**

1. How many of you found this personality profile to be somewhat accurate?
2. Do you feel these personality traits are displayed the same at home as in school?
3. Do other team members think your personality statement represents you?
4. What other personality traits, not mentioned in this activity could you add to your personality statement to describe you?
5. If you were to improve on one of your traits, which one would it be?
6. What can we learn about each other from this exercise?
7. How can this exercise help you work more productively with your team members?

Activity modified using the resource: *One For Your Team!* From Andrew Sanderbeck's Training Manual: 10 Quick and Easy Cooperative Games for Work Teams.
<http://www.peopleconnectinstitute.com/client/images/pig.pdf>