



## **A Model To Understand Youth Culture**

Modified by Mark H. Senter III

From "A Model to Understand Culture"

By Sherwood G. Lingenfelter and Marvin K. Mayers

Determine to what extent each of the following statements describes your thinking and approach to life. If the statement is not at all descriptive of you, write the number 1 in the blank space. If it is very descriptive of you, write the number 7. Write the number 4 if the statement describes you only somewhat. Use the number 2 or 3 items that are less descriptive of you, and the number 5 or 6 for those that are more descriptive. Respond to all statements with a number 1 to 7.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. I would feel uncomfortable attending a large university because I would get lost in the crowd.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I seek out friends and enjoy talking about any subject that happens to come up.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I avoid setting goals for fear that I might not reach them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. I am more concerned about what I have accomplished than in what awards are given to me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I seldom think much about the future; I just like to get involved in things as they turn up.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. I feel things are either right or wrong; discussion of "gray" areas make me uncomfortable and seems to compromise truth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. When making a decision, I feel that more than one of the options can be a right choice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. When I set a goal, I dedicate myself to reaching that goal, even if other areas of my life suffer as a result of it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. I am always one of the first to try something new.



- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. I tend to associate only with people of the same social status.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. I feel strongly that time is a scarce commodity, and I value it highly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. When I have a problem solving a math problem on my homework assignment, I seek help from my teacher rather than asking my friends to help me. With my teacher's help I know I will get the right answer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. I like performing before an audience because it pushes me to perform better.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. My primary criteria for purchasing clothing are reasonable price and comfortable fit; I do not let family or friends influence me to spend more money for a "brand name" or a contemporary fad.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. My room at home is very organized. There is a place for everything, and everything is in its place.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. I read articles, watch programs and listen to lectures by experts to find solutions to issues of importance to me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. If I had an opportunity to study for a year in another country, I would not be held back by relationships to parents and friends.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. I find it difficult to relate to students whose parents are friends.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. I always wear a watch and refer to it regularly in order not to be late for anything.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. I feel very frustrated if someone treats me like a stereotype.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. I tend not to worry about potential problems; I wait until a problem develops before taking action.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. When waiting in line, I tend to start up conversations with people I do not know.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. I hate to arrive late; sometimes I stay away rather than walk in late.



- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. I get annoyed at people who want to stop discussion and push the group to make a decision, especially when everybody has not had a chance to express their opinions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. I plan my daily and weekly activities. I am annoyed when my schedule or routine gets interrupted.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. I do not take sides in a discussion until I have heard all of the arguments.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. Completing a task is almost an obsession with me, and I cannot be content until I am finished.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. I enjoy breaking out of my routine and doing something totally different every now and then to keep life exciting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. When involved in a project, I tend to work on it until completion, even if that means being late on other things.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. There are only a few restaurants (including fast food) at which I eat outside my home. I enjoy a menu and quality of food I can count on.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 31. Even though I have a big test the next day, I would attend a friend's party rather than stay home and study for the whole evening.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 32. I always submit to the authority of my parents, boss, pastor and teacher, even if I feel they may be wrong.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 33. I feel that there is a standard English grammar and that all Americans should use it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 34. I like it when my mother experiments with new recipes at dinner time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 35. I argue my point to the end, even if I know I am wrong.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 36. I do not feel that anything I have done in the past matters much; I have to keep proving myself every day.



- \_\_\_\_\_ 37. When I went into high school, I worked especially hard to prove myself to my classmates.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 38. When introducing student body leaders and athletes, I usually include their role in the student body or position on the athletic team.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 39. I talk with others about my problems and ask them for advice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 40. I avoid participating in games at which I am not very good.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 41. Even if in a hurry while running errands, I will stop to talk with a friend.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 42. I have set specific goals for what I want to accomplish in the next year and the next five years.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 43. I like to be active with many things so that at any one time I have a choice of what to do.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 44. When shopping for a major item, I first get expert advice and then buy the recommended item at the nearest reasonable store.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 45. I enjoy listening to a song and trying to figure out what the performer was thinking and is trying to communicate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 46. I feel uncomfortable and frustrated when a discussion ends without a clear resolution of the issue; nobody wins the argument.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 47. I resist a scheduled life, preferring to do things on the spur of the moment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 48. When I go on a date, I want the guy/girl to be on time.



## ANALYSIS:

To determine your personal profile, fill in below your responses to each of the corresponding statements in the questionnaire. (If, for example, your response to statement 1 was 5 enter 5 in the first space after "Holistic thinking". Then add the five numbers in each line and divide the total by five to obtain your average score for each trait.

1. Time orientation	—	—	—	—	—	—
	11	19	23	25	48	
2. Event orientation	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	24	29	31	47	
3. Dichotomistic thinking	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6	10	15	33	46	
4. Holistic thinking	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	7	20	26	45	
5. Crisis orientation	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6	12	16	30	44	
6. Non-crisis orientation	—	—	—	—	—	—
	7	9	21	34	43	
7. Task orientation	—	—	—	—	—	—
	8	12	17	27	42	
8. Person orientation	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	39	22	31	41	
9. Status focus	—	—	—	—	—	—
	10	18	32	33	38	
10. Achievement focus	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	14	20	36	37	
11. Concealment of vulnerability	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	23	32	35	40	
12. Willingness to expose vulnerability	—	—	—	—	—	—
	9	13	28	34	39	



## **PERSONAL PROFILE**

Find on each axis your average score for that orientation. Then plot on each grid the point where the two scores intersect. This point indicates your basic tendency.

The personal profile of basic traits is an approximate representation of the motivations behind the individual's actions within his or her culture. It will prove useful to compare the individual's profile with that of others. The matrix form presents the contrasting traits as concurrent forces pulling in different (but not necessarily opposite) directions. The scores on each matrix indicate the relative strength of each particular trait as one makes decisions and interacts with others. A score of (2,6) on the first grid (i.e., even has a priority rating of 2, times a rating of 6) suggests that the constraints of time exert a far stronger pull on the decisions and actions of the individual than does commitment to completion of the events in which one participates. A score of (2, 2) probably means that neither trait is exerting a strong influence.

**The personal profile of basic values can be applied in several ways;**

- (1) It can serve as the basis of a judgment against a person who does not behave as we would wish;
- (2) It can serve as a radar signal that we are headed for conflict with another person and thus should avoid confrontation;
- (3) It can serve as an insight which will help us achieve maximum intelligent interaction with another person.

In the chapters that follow we will see that by carefully choosing our responses to people and cultures whose orientations differ from ours, we can reduce or even resolve tensions in interpersonal relations.