

October 14, 2005 Seminar Pre-assignment

Print out and answer the questionnaire based on your own experience from when you were in high school or an undergraduate. Bring this sheet with you to the seminar.

When required to perform a very challenging task you more likely to:

- a) seek out distractions
- b) decide that you are unable, give up, and move on
- c) guide yourself through the situation in the simplest manner
- d) do the minimum so the situation is no longer challenging but ignore the rest of the situation
- e) feel sick about it
- f) get through the challenge and take a vacation

During a big math test you:

- a) find yourself taking quite some time to gather your materials, i.e. pencil, paper, and/or thoughts before starting
- b) helplessly search for the answer to the first challenging question
- c) feel compelled to know most if not all the answers
- d) finish just enough to get by (unless Math happens to be your favorite subject)
- e) feel the pressure of the test building up
- f) not care how you answer the question unless it intrigues you

You are asked to participate in a group project where 50% of your grade is at stake. You respond to the challenge by:

- a) no change
- b) waiting reluctantly until the teacher assigns you to a group
- c) having a vote on who does what, and make the responsibilities of each person clear to the instructor
- d) joining a group, any group, as long as you participate
- e) getting very nervous that no one will choose you
- f) participating only when and if you have the time

When attending a social gathering where you know some of the people there are you more likely to:

- a) engage in conversation only if approached
- b) answer others in short answers
- c) stick to talking with close friends
- d) quickly become the life of the party
- e) feel nervous regardless if someone approaches you
- f) not care if anyone talks to you

You are in a class where you feel confident about the material. You are asked a question where you are unsure of the full answer but know some of the answer. Are you most likely to:

- a) avoid looking dumb if you are not sure of the answer by doing/saying something else
- b) pretend not to know the answer to avoid looking dumb
- c) memorize the text(or your notes) version of the answer before answering
- d) answer with just enough information, and try to bring up some outside topic you are interested in
- e) look distracted so as to avoid being asked in the first place
- f) find yourself not caring if you get the right or wrong answer

When you find yourself bored with nothing to do you:

- a) find yourself doing multiple short term activities
- b) not know what to do with your spare time
- c) find something to do that needs to be done (chores, etc)
- d) passionately engage in your pastime, whatever it may be
- e) take a nap because you are getting a headache thinking about it
- f) resort to doing things by yourself instead of looking for your buddies

Please write a few sentences about where your motivation comes from.