

Comprehensive Inventory of Virtuous Instantiations of Character (CIVIC)

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Note. This includes the Proprietary dimension which was later excluded after factor analytic examination in Study 3

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Website:

www.characterinventory.org

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Administration: Scale items are typically administered in 10-15 item blocks per screen in randomized order with initial instructions on first screen and reminder instructions on subsequent screens. The Likert-type response scale options have typically been presented below each item horizontally:

Very much unlike me Unlike Me Like me Very much like

"Initial Instructions: This section of the questionnaire asks you to respond to a series of statements describing how you **typically** think, feel, or act. It is very important that you respond to the statements honestly.

Read each statement carefully and decide the extent to which the statement is like you or not like you.

There are no right and wrong answers. Just respond to the items honestly and accurately.

In choosing an answer, consider your life in general and not only the last few weeks or months."

"Reminder Instructions: Indicate the extent to which each statement describes how you **typically** think, feel, or act."

I. Appreciation

Gratitude

1. I am deeply aware that I have been blessed by the generosity of others.
2. I am constantly aware of things to be grateful for.
3. I often notice new things to be thankful for.
4. I appreciate the things I have.
5. I feel grateful for the positive things in my life.
6. I am aware that I have many things to be thankful for.
7. It is easy for me to see things to be grateful for.

Love

1. I care deeply about certain people in my life.
2. I cherish my close relationships.
3. I know there are people who care deeply for me despite my imperfections.
4. I feel closely connected to certain people in my life.

II. Intellectual Engagement

Appreciation of Beauty

1. I frequently appreciate the natural beauty of the earth.
2. I feel strong emotions in the presence of beautiful things.
3. I never pass up an opportunity to stop and savor the beauty in nature.
4. I am frequently awed by the beauty of the world around me.
5. I don't overlook beautiful things in my surroundings.
6. I am inspired by beautiful art and music.
7. I appreciate beautiful things.
8. I can see beauty in nature.
9. I am moved by seeing something beautiful.
10. I often notice the beautiful things around me.

Creativity

1. I constantly generate creative ideas.
2. I am known for my creativity.
3. I am a creative thinker.
4. I am able to generate creative solutions to problems.

Curiosity

1. I often explore new topics of interest.
2. I am constantly discovering new interests.
3. I am curious about many subjects.
4. I am interested in many subjects.
5. I am intrigued by new ideas.

Love of Learning

1. I am eager to master new skills.
2. I always enjoy learning new things.
3. I look for opportunities to improve my talents and skills.
4. I am always trying to expand my knowledge.
5. I look for ways to increase my knowledge.
6. I get satisfaction from learning something new.
7. I am motivated to learn new things on my own.
8. I make an effort to learn and develop new skills.
9. I try to learn something new every day.
10. I enjoy the process of learning.

III. Fortitude

Hope

1. I think the future may hold positive outcomes for me.
2. I am always optimistic about my future.
3. I remain hopeful about the future despite challenges.
4. I have positive expectations about my future.
5. I tend to view my future with a sense of optimism.
6. I am typically confident that good things are coming.
7. I am hopeful about my future.

Persistence

1. I can conquer many obstacles on the way to achieving my goals.
2. I tirelessly pursue my goals.
3. I don't let obstacles prevent me from reaching my goals.
4. I am not a quitter.
5. I don't leave important projects unfinished.
6. I don't get sidetracked by unanticipated difficulties on the way to reaching a goal.
7. I persist through difficult problems rather than giving up and feeling discouraged.
8. I usually finish what I have started.
9. I overcome obstacles that interfere with getting things done.
10. I keep pushing to reach my goals even when things get difficult.
11. I don't readily give up on difficult tasks.
12. I can force myself to stick with difficult tasks.
13. I have the self-discipline needed to accomplish difficult goals.
14. I don't have trouble sustaining motivation towards my goals.
15. I am a highly determined person.
16. I approach my goals with great commitment.
17. I will not give up once I resolve to do something.
18. I don't give up easily when tasks get difficult.

Zest

1. I typically look forward to each new day.
2. I feel excited to start each day.
3. I am brimming with excitement about life.
4. I always look forward to what the day brings.
5. I have great enthusiasm for life.
6. I eagerly anticipate each day's activities.
7. I try to live each day to the fullest.
8. I typically feel ready to take on what life has in store for me.
9. I hardly ever feel halfhearted about my activities.
10. I typically don't dread starting my daily activities.
11. I generally approach my daily activities with energy.
12. I have enthusiasm for my daily activities.

IV. Interpersonal Consideration

Humor

1. I am good at making other people laugh.
2. I am good at using humor to lighten serious situations.
3. I am frequently told that I am hilarious.
4. I frequently cause other people to laugh.

Leadership

1. I can motivate a group to unite towards a common goal.
2. I can effectively direct the actions of a group.
3. I can get a group to function effectively.
4. I am often picked to represent my team or group in meetings.
5. I am able to get people to work together more effectively.
6. I can get team members to put forth their best efforts when working on a project
7. I am good at helping people function well as a group.

Perspective

1. I feel confident in my ability to give good advice.
2. I hardly ever give advice that proves to be unwise.
3. I consider myself to be a good source of wisdom.
4. I am good at directing others toward wise actions.
5. I have been a helpful resource to many people in need of wise advice.
6. I feel my life experiences have taught me a great deal about living wisely.
7. I give good advice.
8. I have a knack for giving helpful advice.

Social Perceptiveness

1. I have a knack for knowing what people are really after.
2. I have good insights about the reasons behind others' actions.
3. I am quick to recognize other peoples' motives.
4. I have a good sense for what others are feeling.
5. I understand the motives of people around me.

Teamwork

1. I am willing to do more than my fair share of work to ensure that my team succeeds.
2. I often go beyond what I am responsible for to ensure the success of my team or group.
3. I always feel a strong sense of commitment to team goals.
4. I care deeply about the success of the groups and communities I am a part of.
5. I am willing to sacrifice my time to help achieve team goals.
6. I am considered a good "team player".
7. I give extra effort when necessary to help my groups or teams succeed.

V. Sincerity

Authenticity

1. I am generally honest with others.
2. I don't deliberately misrepresent myself to others.
3. I refuse to misrepresent myself to others.
4. I present myself in a genuine way.
5. I don't pretend to be someone I'm not.
6. I don't typically feel like I am faking who I am.

Bravery

1. I refuse to let fear stop me from doing what is right.
2. I consistently stand up for what I believe in even when I am afraid.
3. I defend what is right even if I am in the minority.
4. I try to stand up for what is right even if there are negative results.
5. I do not back down from doing the right thing even when people will disagree with me.

Humility

1. I don't seek attention for my accomplishments.
2. I don't brag about my successes.
3. I am very reserved when talking about my achievements.
4. I don't brag about myself to get attention.
5. I don't seek out compliments from others.
6. I am humble about my accomplishments.
7. I don't like to show off.
8. I try not to talk too much about my successes.

Trustworthiness

1. I try my best to keep my promises.
2. I am very dependable.
3. I can be relied on to follow through on my commitments.
4. I am a reliable friend.
5. I am true to my word.
6. I keep my promises even if it costs me.

VI. Temperance

Carefulness

1. I always consider potential risks before taking actions.
2. I think about potential harms and risks when making decisions.
3. I think through all the outcomes of a certain course of action before moving forward with it.
4. I tend to think before I act.

Emotional Awareness

1. I can make sense of my emotional experiences.
2. I can usually figure out why I am feeling a certain emotion.
3. I recognize my emotions and their underlying causes.
4. I have a good understanding of my motives and feelings.

Self-Control

1. I exercise self-restraint from time to time.
2. I can control impulses to do things that may be unwise or wrong.
3. I can resist temptation.
4. I am good at exercising self-control.
5. I often practice self-restraint.

Forethought

1. I generally consider how my words and actions might affect my future.
2. I try to act in ways that will benefit me for years to come.
3. I often consider the future consequences of how I spend my time today.
4. I thoughtfully consider the potential long-term consequences of my actions.

VII. Transcendence

Meaning/Purpose

1. I feel whatever happens in my life is part of some greater purpose.
2. I think there is greater meaning in the apparent randomness in life.
3. I feel sustained by my belief that my life fits into a larger purpose.
4. I feel a strong sense of meaning in my life.
5. I feel my time on earth is part of some larger plan for mankind.
6. I have been put on this earth for a reason.
7. I believe that life has a larger purpose.
8. I think there is meaning in the universe.
9. I feel my life has a greater purpose than I am capable of understanding.
10. I feel I am on earth for a reason that in this life I cannot know.

Spirituality

1. I consider myself a spiritual person.
2. I use my spirituality as a source of support and guidance.
3. I feel connected to a higher power.
4. I seek out spiritual experiences.
5. I desire spiritual growth.
6. I like discussing spiritual topics.
7. I set aside time daily for prayer or meditation.
8. I believe we are more than just our physical bodies.
9. I believe there is more to life than what we can perceive with our five senses.

VIII. Empathy

Fairness

1. I try not to let stereotypes or prejudices affect my judgments about other people.
2. I treat people fairly even when it does not benefit me.
3. I think that all people involved in a situation should be able to voice their opinions.
4. I try to prevent potential biases towards people from affecting how I treat them.
5. I make it a point to treat everyone fairly.
6. I try to be fair in every decision I make.
7. I strive to treat everyone equally.
8. I am opposed to decisions that give some people an unfair advantage.
9. I am supportive of decision-making processes that give everyone a fair chance.

Forgiveness

1. I can eventually forgive someone for wronging me.
2. I am almost always willing to give people a second chance when they make a mistake.
3. I don't hold grudges against others.
4. I don't want to hurt those who have wronged me.
5. I forgive people who wrong me.
6. I forgive people who sincerely apologize for their mistakes and wrongdoings.
7. I can sometimes give a person a second chance when they have hurt me.
8. I forgive people for making small mistakes.
9. I try to forgive others when they hurt me.

Kindness

1. I go out of my way to help people who are suffering.
2. I am generous towards people in need of help.
3. I offer my support to people who are in need of help.
4. I feel compelled to help people who are less fortunate than me.
5. I feel compassion towards people in need.
6. I frequently help people in need.
7. I enjoy taking care of people that need help.

Openness to Evidence

1. I find it easy to change my views when presented with convincing evidence.
2. I weigh all evidence fairly, even when it contradicts one of my beliefs.
3. I am comfortable reading information that challenges some of my core beliefs.
4. I am willing to consider new evidence that challenges my beliefs about the world.
5. I am able to change my mind about an issue when new information arises.
6. I am willing to revise my beliefs in light of new evidence.

Perspective-Taking

1. I am willing to listen to people whose opinions differ from mine.
2. I don't judge people negatively just because they have different views and beliefs.
3. I am considerate toward people who express views that conflict with mine.
4. I don't dismiss people just because they disagree with me on important issues.
5. I don't assume a person's beliefs are wrong without hearing their reasons.
6. I am good at listening to people who have different opinions than me.
7. I see the merits of opinions and beliefs that differ from my own.