

# Project 14-1

## Personality Traits

### ● Concept

Raymond Cattell believed that by measuring the 16 source traits—traits that he considered to be at the core of personality—psychologists could predict people's behavior in certain situations. While personality trait research involves sophisticated research techniques, it is interesting to use Cattell's 16 source traits to describe ourselves and people we know.

### ● Materials Needed

- two data sheets, copied back-to-back, for each participant
- stopwatch or watch with a second hand

### ● Assembly

- no assembly required

### ● Procedure

1. Invite five pairs of best friends to participate in this project. You can collect data from each pair separately or work with all participants at once. Assign a number to each pair.
2. Hand each participant a data sheet and have them write their pair number on the appropriate line at the top of the page. Also, instruct them to check the box marked SELF at the top of the page.
3. Ask the participants to look at each set of words and circle one of the dots along the line between the words to indicate where they fall on the continuum. Explain that they will have 60 seconds to complete this activity.
4. After 60 seconds, ask participants to turn the data sheets over. Instruct them to write their pair number on the appropriate line and check the box marked FRIEND at the top of the page.
5. Ask participants to look at each set of words and circle one of the dots along the line between the words to indicate where they feel their best friend falls on the continuum. Again, allow 60 seconds. Make sure participants do not look at what they marked on the other side of the paper.
6. Collect the data sheets and thank the participants for helping. (It is best if you do not allow the friends to share the information on the data sheets.)

### ● Things to Observe

**Directions:** Complete the following steps on each pair of data sheets.

- Use the point scale shown below to convert the circles into numbers.



- Calculate the difference between what the participant marked and what his or her friend marked on each continuum. (Look at both sheets with the same pair number. Compare the SELF side of one sheet with the FRIEND side of the other.)

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**Analyzing the Results**

Directions: Answer the following questions in the space provided.

- 1. Are there any patterns evident in the choices participants make about themselves or their friends? If so, what are they?

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- 2. How can you explain the differences between what the participant thinks about himself or herself and what the friend thinks?

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- 3. Is it possible to predict any behavior based on this project?

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**Data Sheet**

Directions: Follow the instructions provided by the person conducting this project.

Self     Friend

Pair Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reserved	● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ●	Outgoing
Less intelligent	● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ●	More intelligent
Affected by feelings	● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ●	Emotionally stable
Submissive	● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ●	Dominant
Serious	● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ●	Happy-go-lucky
Expedient	● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ●	Conscientious
Timid	● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ●	Venturesome
Tough-minded	● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ●	Sensitive
Trusting	● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ●	Suspicious
Practical	● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ●	Imaginative
Forthright	● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ●	Shrewd
Self-assured	● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ●	Apprehensive
Conservative	● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ●	Experimenting
Group-dependent	● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ●	Self-sufficient
Uncontrolled	● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ●	Controlled
Relaxed	● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ● — ●	Tense

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