

Purpose

The *Parker Team Player Survey* will help you identify your style as a team player. The results will lead you to an assessment of your current strengths and provide a basis for a plan to increase your effectiveness as a team player.

Teams may use the survey to develop a profile of team strengths and to discuss strategies for increasing team effectiveness.

Directions

First, this is a survey, so there are no right or wrong answers. Please answer each item according to how you honestly feel you function now as a team member rather than how you used to be or how you would like to be.

You will be asked to complete eighteen sentences. Each sentence has four possible endings. Please rank the endings in the order in which you feel each one applies to you. Place the number 4 next to the ending that is most applicable to you and continue down to a 1 next to the ending that is least applicable to you.

For example:

As a team member, I am usually most concerned about

- _____ a. meeting high ethical standards.
- _____ b. reaching our goals.
- _____ c. meeting my individual responsibilities.
- _____ d. how well we are working together as a group.

Please do not make ties or use 4, 3, 2, or 1 more than once. It is possible that some of the sentences will have two or more endings that apply to you or will have none that applies to you, but you should assume these are your only choices and rank them accordingly. Each set of endings must be ranked with a 4, a 3, a 2, and a 1.

The Parker Team Player Survey

1. During team meetings, I usually

- a. provide the team with technical data or information.
- b. keep the team focused on our mission or goals.
- c. make sure everyone is involved in the discussion.
- d. raise questions about our goals or methods.

2. In relating to the team leader, I

- a. suggest that our work be goal directed.
- b. try to help him or her build a positive team climate.
- c. am willing to disagree with him or her when necessary.
- d. offer advice based on my area of expertise.

3. Under stress, I sometimes

- a. overuse humor and other tension-reducing devices.
- b. am too direct in communicating with other team members.
- ____ c. lose patience with the need to get everyone involved in discussions.
- d. complain to outsiders about problems facing the team.

4. When conflicts arise on the team, I usually

- a. press for an honest discussion of the differences.
- b. provide reasons why one side or the other is correct.
- c. see the differences as a basis for a possible change in team direction.
- d. try to break the tension with a supportive or humorous remark.

5. Other team members usually see me as

- a. factual.
- b. flexible.
- c. encouraging.
- d. candid.

6. At times, I am

- a. too results oriented.
- b. too laid-back.
- c. self-righteous.
- d. shortsighted.

7. When things go wrong on the team, I usually

- a. push for increased emphasis on listening, feedback, and participation.
- b. press for candid discussion of our problems.
- ____ c. work hard to provide more and better information.
- d. suggest that we revisit our basic mission.

8. A risky team contribution for me is to

- a. question some aspect of the team's work.
- b. push the team to set higher performance standards.
- c. work outside my defined role or job area.
- d. provide other team members with feedback on their behavior as team members.

9. Sometimes other team members see me as

- a. a perfectionist.
- b. unwilling to reassess the team's mission or goals.
- c. not serious about getting the real job done.
- d. a nitpicker.

10. I believe team problem solving requires

- a. cooperation by all team members.
- b. high-level listening skills.
- c. a willingness to ask tough questions.
- d. good solid data.

11. When a new team is forming, I usually

- a. try to meet and get to know other team members.
- b. ask pointed questions about our goals and methods.
- c. want to know what is expected of me.
- d. seek clarity about our basic mission.

12. At times, I make other people feel

- a. dishonest because they are not able to be as confrontational as I am.
- b. guilty because they don't live up to my standards.
- c. small-minded because they don't think long-range.
- d. heartless because they don't care about how people relate to each other.

13. I believe the role of the team leader is to

- a. ensure the efficient solution of business problems.
- b. help the team establish long-range goals and short-term objectives.
- c. create a participatory decision-making climate.
- d. bring out diverse ideas and challenge assumptions.

14. I believe team decisions should be based on

- a. the team's mission and goals.
- b. a consensus of team members.
- c. an open and candid assessment of the issues.
- d. the weight of the evidence.

15. Sometimes I

- a. see team climate as an end in itself.
- b. play devil's advocate far too long.
- c. fail to see the importance of effective team process.
- d. overemphasize strategic issues and minimize short-term task accomplishments.

16. People have often described me as

- a. independent.
- b. dependable.
- c. imaginative.
- d. participative.

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17. Most of the time, I am

- a. responsible and hardworking.
- b. committed and flexible.
- c. enthusiastic and humorous.
- d. honest and authentic.

18. In relating to other team members, at times I get annoyed because they don't

- a. revisit team goals to check progress.
- b. see the importance of working well together.
- c. object to team actions with which they disagree.
- d. complete their team assignments on time.

Parker Team Player Survey Results

Directions

1. Please transfer your answers from the survey to this table.
2. Please be careful when recording the numbers in the following table, because the order of the letters differs from question to question. For example, for question #1 the order is a, b, c, d, but for question #2 the order is d, a, b, c.
3. The totals for the four styles must equal 180.

Question	Contributor	Collaborator	Communicator	Challenger	
1.	a. ____	b. ____	c. ____	d. ____	
2.	d. ____	a. ____	b. ____	c. ____	
3.	c. ____	d. ____	a. ____	b. ____	
4.	b. ____	c. ____	d. ____	a. ____	
5.	a. ____	b. ____	c. ____	d. ____	
6.	d. ____	a. ____	b. ____	c. ____	
7.	c. ____	d. ____	a. ____	b. ____	
8.	b. ____	c. ____	d. ____	a. ____	
9.	a. ____	b. ____	c. ____	d. ____	
10.	d. ____	a. ____	b. ____	c. ____	
11.	c. ____	d. ____	a. ____	b. ____	
12.	b. ____	c. ____	d. ____	a. ____	
13.	a. ____	b. ____	c. ____	d. ____	
14.	d. ____	a. ____	b. ____	c. ____	
15.	b. ____	d. ____	a. ____	b. ____	
16.	c. ____	c. ____	d. ____	a. ____	
17.	a. ____	b. ____	c. ____	d. ____	
18.	d. ____	a. ____	b. ____	c. ____	
Totals	____	____	____	____	= 180

The highest number indicates your *primary team player style*. If your two highest numbers are the same or within three points of each other, consider them both as your primary style. The lowest total indicates your least-active team player style.

Your primary team player style defines a set of behaviors that you use most often as a member of a team. It does not mean that it is the only style you use. All of us have the capacity to use all of the four styles. We simply use one style—our primary style—most often.

Contributor

Task

The Contributor is a task-oriented team member who enjoys providing the team with good technical information and data, does his or her homework, and pushes the team to set high performance standards and to use their resources wisely. Most people see you as dependable, although they believe that at times you may become too bogged down in the details and data or you fail to see the big picture or the need for a positive team climate.

People describe you as responsible, authoritative, reliable, proficient, and organized.

Collaborator

Goal

The Collaborator is a goal-directed member who sees the vision, mission, or goal of the team as paramount but is flexible and open to new ideas, willing to pitch in and work outside his or her defined role, and able to share the limelight with other team members. Most people see you as a big-picture person, but they believe that at times you may fail to revisit the mission periodically, give enough attention to the basic team tasks, or consider the individual needs of other team members.

People describe you as forward looking, goal directed, accommodating, flexible, and imaginative.

Communicator

Process

The Communicator is a process-oriented member who is an effective listener and facilitator of involvement, conflict resolution, consensus building, feedback, and the building of an informal, relaxed climate. Most people see you as a positive "people person," but they find that at times you may see process as an end in itself and that you may not confront other team members or give enough emphasis to completing task assignments and making progress toward team goals.

People describe you as supportive, considerate, relaxed, enthusiastic, and tactful.

Challenger

Question

The Challenger is a member who questions the goals, methods, and even the ethics of the team; is willing to disagree with the leader or higher authority; and encourages the team to take well-conceived risks. Most people appreciate the value of your candor and openness, but they think that at times you may not know when to back off an issue or you may become self-righteous and try to push the team too far.

People describe you as honest, outspoken, principled, ethical, and adventurous.