

Student Self-Inventory

The Steamroller: Steamrollers tend to dominate the discussion and talk over other peoples' talking. Steamrollers know it all and can't wait to tell everyone what the right answer is. They don't listen well because they are planning what to say as soon as the other person finishes. You might be a steamroller if any of the following are true:

- I interrupt people.
- I find myself thinking about what I am going to say next and forget to listen.
- I say things that I later regret.
- I think I understand it better than other people in my group.
- I wish I were allowed to talk more.

Advice for Steamrollers: If you think you might be a steamroller, try counting to 10 before you share your idea and see if anyone else has something to say first. Another thing to try is giving yourself only 3 chances to speak during discussions. Once you use up those chances, be quiet and let others talk.

The Mouse: Mice rarely talk; perhaps they are afraid to talk because they are perfectionists and don't believe their contribution is good enough, or it could be due to shyness. You might be a mouse if any of the following are true:

- I don't like to talk in groups.
- I am not confident about what I think.
- My ideas are not very good.
- I get nervous talking in groups.

Advice for Mice: If you think you might be a mouse, write down ideas as you are reading. Before class, choose one of those ideas and be the first to raise your hand and share it. It is easier to talk at the beginning of a discussion than to jump in one that is already rolling.

The Boxer: Always looking for a fight, boxers will argue about anything. Tending to make emotional rather than rational contributions, they are impulsive and generally talk before thinking. You might be a boxer if any of the following are true:

- People annoy me with their ideas.
- People make me mad when they say things I disagree with.
- I get upset easily.
- I feel strongly that I am right.
- I talk before I think.

Advice for Boxers: Try to really listen to what the other person is saying. Often arguments start when someone doesn't understand the other person's position and they jump to conclusions. Ask questions about what the other person is thinking before you give your opinion, and really think about the other person's perspective. Try saying back to them, "So, I think you are saying.....is that what you meant?"

The Distractor: Typically off-topic, they are easily distracted and tend to distract others from the question at hand. You might be a distractor if any of the following are true:

- I get bored easily in discussions.
- I talk about things other than the schoolwork.
- I forget what we are supposed to be talking about.
- I like to talk about what I want to talk about.

Advice for Distractors: Write things down. Write down what you are thinking and what others are saying. Try to keep a list of as many ideas that are shared as possible. Keep the question the class is discussing in front of you and underline important words. Refer to the question often to see if you are answering all of the parts of it.