

GORILLA PERSONALITY TRAIT ASSESSMENT

Gorilla personality assessments can be made with this questionnaire by assigning a numerical score for all of the personality traits listed on the following pages. Make your judgments on the basis of your own understanding of the trait guided by the short clarifying definition following each trait. The gorilla's own behaviors and interactions with other gorillas should be the basis for your numerical ratings. Use your own subjective judgment of typical gorilla behavior to decide if the gorilla you are scoring is above, below, or average for a trait. The following seven point scale should be used to make your ratings.

1. Displays either total absence or negligible amounts of the trait.
2. Displays small amounts of the trait on infrequent occasions.
3. Displays somewhat less than average amounts of the trait.
4. Displays about average amounts of the trait.
5. Displays somewhat greater than average amounts of the trait.
6. Displays considerable amounts of the trait on frequent occasions.
7. Displays extremely large amounts of the trait.

Please give a rating for each trait even if your judgment seems to be based on a purely subjective impression of the gorilla and you are somewhat unsure about it. Indicate your rating by placing a cross in the box underneath the chosen number. ☐

Finally, do not discuss your rating of any particular gorilla with anyone else. As explained in the handout accompanying this questionnaire, this restriction is necessary in order to obtain valid reliability coefficients for the traits.

GORILLA PERSONALITY TRAIT ASSESSMENT

Gorilla's full name:_____

Rater's full name:_____

Date (Mon/Day/Yr):_____

FEARFUL: Subject reacts excessively to real or imagined threats by displaying behaviors such as screaming, grimacing, running away or other signs of anxiety or distress.

least 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 most

DOMINANT: Subject is able to displace, threaten, or take food from other gorillas. Or subject may express high status by decisively intervening in social interactions.

least 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 most

PERSISTENT: Subject tends to continue in a course of action, task, or strategy for a long time or continues despite opposition from other gorillas.

least 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 most

CAUTIOUS: Subject often seems attentive to possible harm or danger from its actions. Subject avoids risky behaviors.

[illegible]

STABLE: Subject reacts to its environment including the behavior of other gorillas in a calm, equable, way. Subject is not easily upset by the behaviors of other gorillas.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

AUTISTIC: Subject often displays repeated, continuous, and stereotyped behaviors such as rocking or self claspings.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CURIOUS: Subject has a desire to see or know about objects or other gorillas. This includes a desire to know about the affairs of other gorillas that do not directly concern the subject.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

THOUGHTLESS: Subject often behaves in a way that seems imprudent or forgetful.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

STINGY/GREEDY: Subject is excessively desirous or covetous of food, favored locations, or other resources in the environment. Subject is unwilling to share these resources with others.

least most

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

JEALOUS: Subject is often troubled by others who are in a desirable or advantageous situation such as having food, a choice location, or access to social groups. Subject may attempt to disrupt activities of advantaged gorillas.

least most

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

INDIVIDUALISTIC: Subject's behavior stands out compared to that of the other individuals in the group. This does not mean that it does not fit or is incompatible with the group.

least most

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RECKLESS: Subject is rash or unconcerned about the consequences of its behaviors.

least most

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SOCIABLE: Subject seeks and enjoys the company of other gorillas and engages in amicable, affable, interactions with them.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISTRACTABLE: Subject is easily distracted and has a short attention span.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TIMID: Subject lacks self confidence, is easily alarmed and is hesitant to venture into new social or non-social situations.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SYMPATHETIC: Subject seems to be considerate and kind towards others as if sharing their feelings or trying to provide reassurance.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PLAYFUL: Subject is eager to engage in lively, vigorous, sportive, or acrobatic behaviors with or without other gorillas.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SOLITARY: Subject prefers to spend considerable time alone not seeking or avoiding contact with other gorillas.

least most

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VULNERABLE: Subject is prone to be physically or emotionally hurt as a result of dominance displays, highly assertive behavior, aggression, or attack by another gorilla.

least most

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

INNOVATIVE: Subject engages in new or different behaviors that may involve the use of objects or materials or ways of interacting with others.

least most

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ACTIVE: Subject spends little time idle and seems motivated to spend considerable time either moving around or engaging in some overt, energetic behavior.

least most

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HELPFUL: Subject is willing to assist, accommodate, or cooperate with other gorillas.

least most

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BULLYING: Subject is overbearing and intimidating towards younger or lower ranking gorillas.

least most

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

AGGRESSIVE: Subject often initiates fights or other menacing and agonistic encounters with other gorillas.

least most

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MANIPULATIVE: Subject is adept at forming social relationships for its own advantage, especially using alliances and friendships to increase its social standing. Gorilla seems able and willing to use others.

least most

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

GENTLE: Subject responds to others in an easy-going, kind, and considerate manner. Subject is not rough or threatening.

least most

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

AFFECTIONATE: Subject seems to have a warm attachment or closeness with other gorillas. This may entail frequently grooming, touching, embracing, or lying next to others.

least most

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EXCITABLE: Subject is easily aroused to an emotional state. Subject becomes highly aroused by situations that would cause less arousal in most gorillas.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IMPULSIVE: Subject often displays some spontaneous or sudden behavior that could not have been anticipated. There often seems to be some emotional reason behind the sudden behavior.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

INQUISITIVE: Subject seems drawn to new situations, objects, or animals. Subject behaves as if it wishes to learn more about other gorillas, objects, or persons within its view.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBMISSIVE: Subject often gives in or yields to another gorilla. Subject acts as if it is subordinate or of lower rank than other gorillas.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COOL: Subject seems unaffected by emotions and is usually undisturbed, assured, and calm.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DEPENDENT/FOLLOWER: Subject often relies on other gorillas for leadership, reassurance, touching, embracing and other forms of social support.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IRRITABLE: Subject often seems in a bad mood or is impatient and easily provoked to anger exasperation and consequent agonistic behavior.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

UNPERCEPTIVE: Subject is slow to respond or understand moods, dispositions, or behaviors of others.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PREDICTABLE: Subject's behavior is consistent and steady over extended periods of time. Subject does little that is unexpected or deviates from its usual behavioral routine.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DECISIVE: Subject is deliberate, determined, and purposeful in its activities.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DEPRESSED: Subject does not seek out social interactions with others and often fails to respond to social interactions of other gorillas. Subject often appears isolated, withdrawn, sullen, brooding, and has reduced activity.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CONVENTIONAL: Subject seems to lack spontaneity or originality. Subject behaves in a consistent manner from day to day and stays well within the social rules of the group.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SENSITIVE: Subject is able to understand or read the mood, disposition, feelings, or intentions of other gorillas often on the basis of subtle, minimal cues.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DEFIANT: Subject is assertive or contentious in a way inconsistent with the usual dominance order. Subject maintains these actions despite unfavorable consequences or threats from others.

least								most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

INTELLIGENT: Subject is quick and accurate in judging and comprehending both social and non-social situations. Subject is perceptive and discerning about social relationships.

least								most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

PROTECTIVE: Subject shows concern for other gorillas and often intervenes to prevent harm or annoyance from coming to them.

least								most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

QUITTING: Subject readily stops or gives up activities that have recently been started.

least								most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

INVENTIVE: Subject is more likely than others to do new things including novel social or non-social behaviors. Novel behavior may also include new ways of using materials in the environment.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CLUMSY: Subject is relatively awkward or uncoordinated during movements including but not limited to walking, acrobatics, and play.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ERRATIC: Subject is inconsistent, indefinite, and widely varying in its behavior and moods.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FRIENDLY: Subject often seeks out contact with other gorillas for amiable, genial activities. Subject infrequently initiates hostile behaviors towards other gorillas.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ANXIOUS: Subject often seems distressed, troubled, or is in a state of uncertainty.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

LAZY: Subject is relatively inactive, indolent, or slow moving and avoids energetic activities.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISORGANIZED: Subject is scatterbrained, sloppy, or haphazard in its behavior as if not following a consistent goal.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

UNEMOTIONAL: Subject is relatively placid and unlikely to become aroused, upset, happy, or sad.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IMITATIVE: Subject often mimics, or copies behaviors that it has observed in other gorillas.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

INDEPENDENT: Subject is individualistic and determines its own course of action without control or interference from other gorillas.

least							most
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
