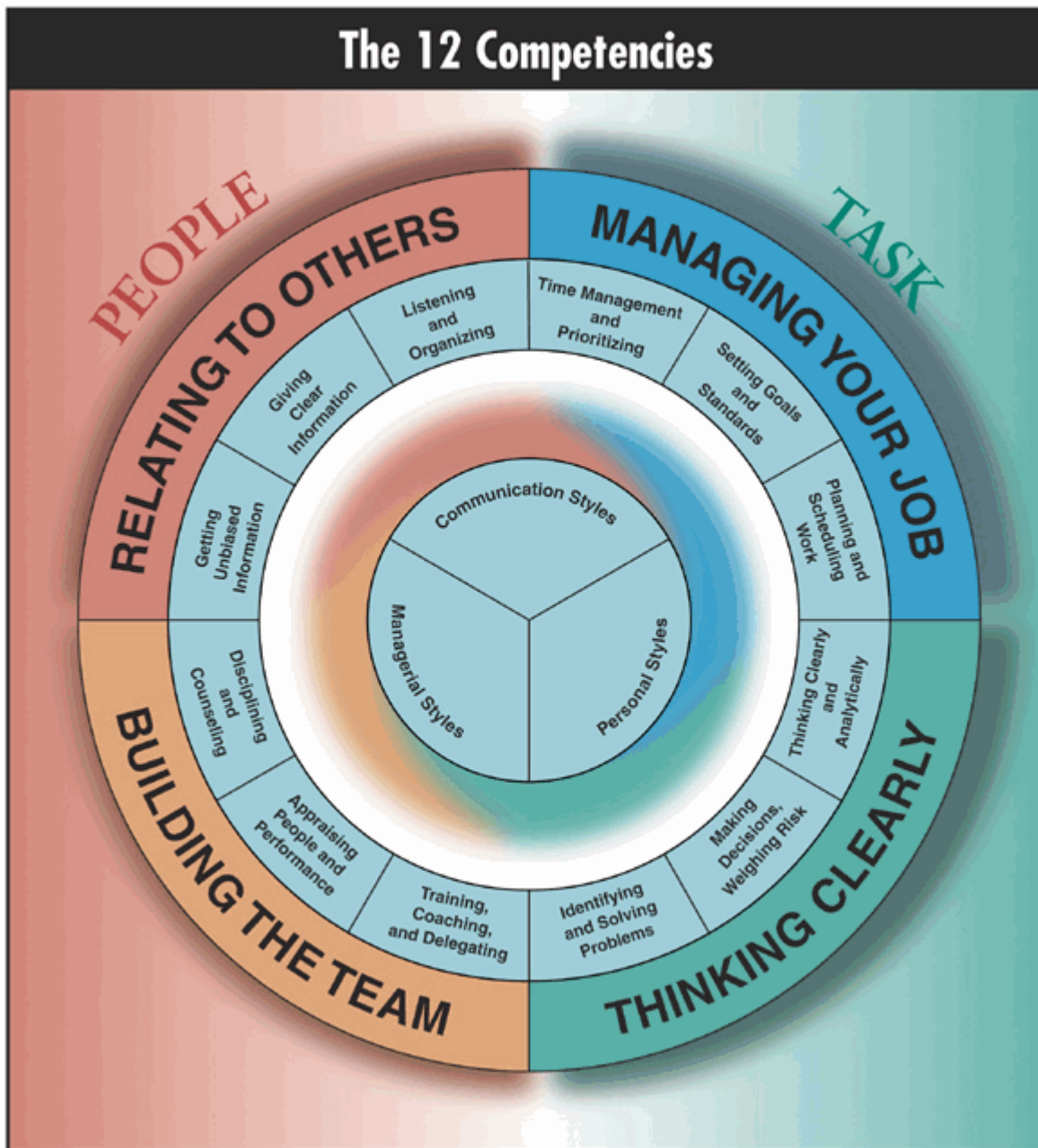


Managerial  
Assessment of  
Proficiency  
**MAP**<sup>TM</sup>



Individual Report Prepared for Sample Report

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This is the core of your assessment results. A bar chart report describes your percentile scores for 12 competencies, four personal styles, four communication styles, and two managerial styles.

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## **Section V: Development Suggestions**

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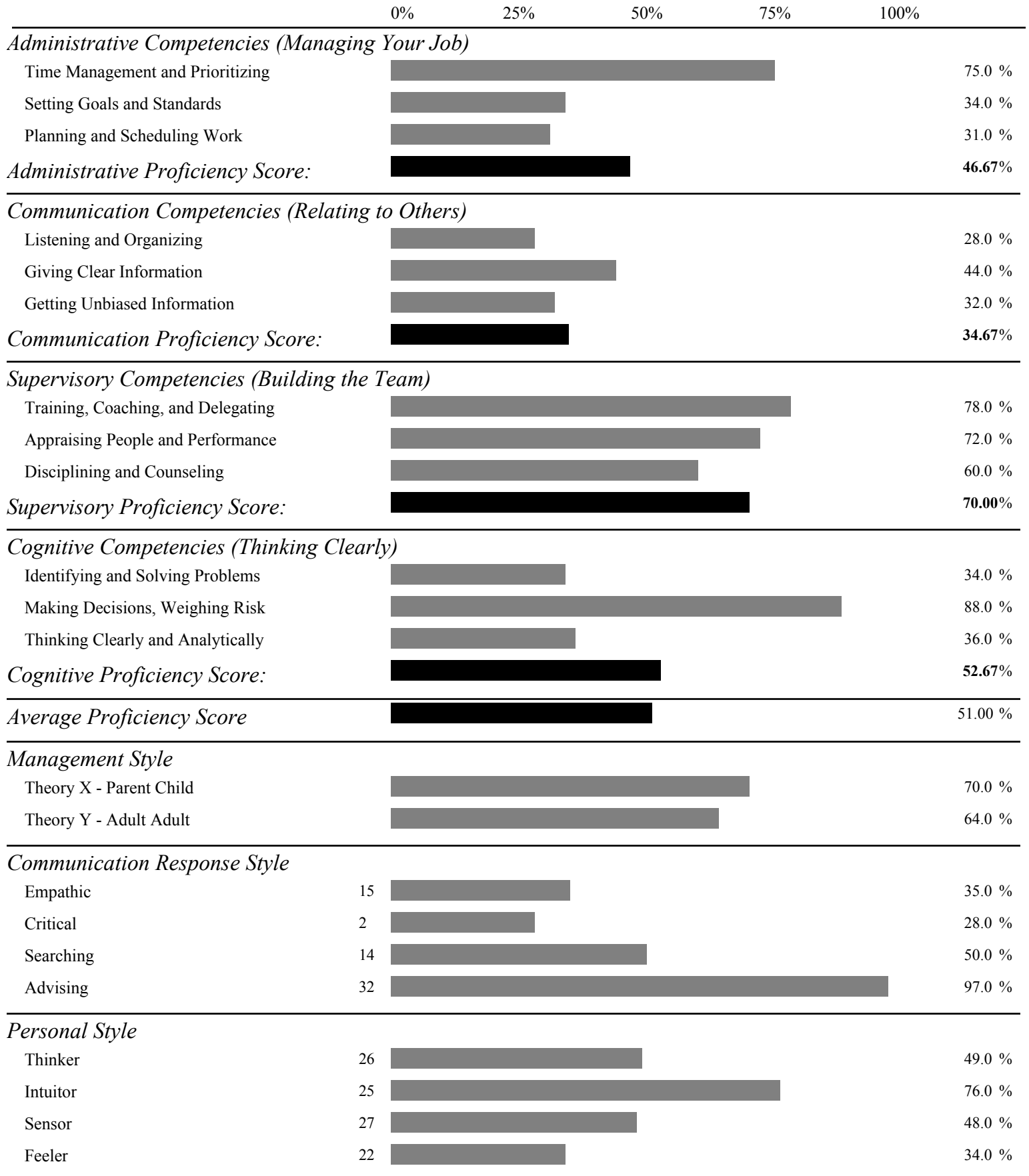
## **Section VI: Individual Development Plan**

This IDP should be used to select your development priorities and the development suggestions you will use to begin improving your competence.

# Section I: Proficiency Profile

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## Section I: Proficiency Profile



## **Section II: Competency Scores with Narrative Explanation**

This section provides a narrative description of your proficiency level, by competency, for the quartile you scored within.

## Section II - Competency Scores with Narrative Explanation

### Composite Score: Administrative Competencies (Managing Your Job)

#### *Time Management and Prioritizing*

*Your Score:* 75.00%

You are able to manage your time fairly well ... you know how your time is being used. However, shifts in priorities and unscheduled interruptions keep you from being fully effective. You may be doing activities that you enjoy but that are less productive than other activities that you put off and procrastinate. It's also important to agree on how much time you'll take when meeting with other people.

#### *Setting Goals and Standards*

*Your Score:* 34.00%

You tend to be activity-oriented. You are kept busy and probably do not give enough thought to the goals and standards that your activity should help you and your people to achieve. More time should be spent setting challenging, measurable, specific, time-based goals and standards for yourself and for those who work with you.

#### *Planning and Scheduling Work*

*Your Score:* 31.00%

Although you are committed to improving productivity, the interruptions and barriers surrounding your work make it difficult for you to plan and schedule activities in an orderly manner. You see your major role as being a trouble-shooter. Many activities could be simplified or eliminated. Invest more time in planning your work, then working your plan.

*Your Composite Score is* 46.70%

## Section II - (continued)

### Composite Score: Cognitive Competencies (Thinking Clearly)

#### *Identifying and Solving Problems*

*Your Score:* 34.00%

Your problem-solving skills are below average. Perhaps you are confusing symptoms with root causes. Perhaps you are skipping one or more steps in the problem-solving sequence (process that can be learned). Perhaps you have difficulty with implementation and follow-through once you've determined the best course of corrective action. Many books and training programs exist for improving this competency.

#### *Making Decisions, Weighing Risk*

*Your Score:* 88.00%

You have demonstrated a high degree of proficiency in understanding how complex decisions are made and using a decision matrix to assign weights to your choices ("options"), showing how each performs against the criteria you've identified and ranked as important ("desirables"). This improves your objectivity.

#### *Thinking Clearly and Analytically*

*Your Score:* 36.00%

You accept information that looks good on the surface but that is based on flawed logic. You need to learn how to question statements that spring from faulty premises, inadequate information, and shaky conclusions. Analytical thinking is a skill that we were not taught back in school, but it can be improved through training and development.

*Your Composite Score is* 52.70%

## Section II - (continued)

### Composite Score: Communication Competencies (Relating to Others)

#### *Listening and Organizing*

*Your Score:* 28.00%

Listening goes beyond hearing. It requires understanding ... of meaning and of the speaker's intentions. You should practice translating what others say into alternative wording, then check with the speaker to verify that what you think you understood is actually what they meant to convey.

#### *Giving Clear Information*

*Your Score:* 44.00%

Your ability to organize your thoughts for transmission to others is in need of improvement. Make sure your messages are clear, complete, concise, and organized in a way that promotes understanding. Try to overcome physical, psychological, and language barriers that can interfere with getting your message across.

#### *Getting Unbiased Information*

*Your Score:* 32.00%

The ability to get information that is free of bias requires skill in asking questions in a non-directive (open-ended, neutral) manner. You tend to ask directive questions that influence others to bias their responses. Learning how to phrase questions and use probes will help you to improve in this competency.

*Your Composite Score is* 34.70%



## Section II - (continued)

### Composite Score: Supervisory Competencies (Building the Team)

#### *Training, Coaching, and Delegating*

*Your Score:* 78.00%

You have demonstrated a high level of understanding of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to develop others effectively. By applying these in your job, you should be very effective in training, coaching, and delegating to those with whom you work.

#### *Appraising People and Performance*

*Your Score:* 72.00%

You have shown good proficiency in recognizing the steps involved in giving constructive feedback that strengthens a person's desirable performance and that helps them take corrective action when performance is lagging. You recognize that this process occurs almost daily and is much more effective than the mere scheduling of annual appraisals with little feedback in between.

#### *Disciplining and Counseling*

*Your Score:* 60.00%

Although you have displayed an above-average ability to discipline and counsel people in a constructive manner, there are still areas for improvement. The process includes agreement on standards, acknowledgement of the performance gap, actions to be taken, a timetable for improvement, consequences of future deviation, and follow-up to recognize and reinforce the desired behavior."

*Your Composite Score is* 70.00%

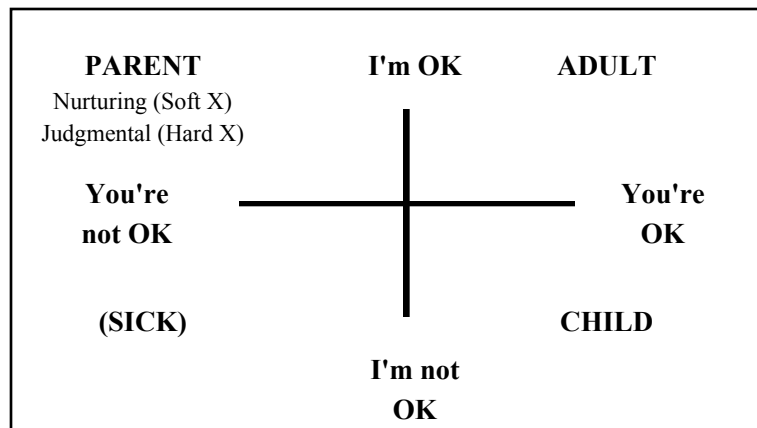
## Section II - (continued)

### Theory X and Theory Y

#### *Management Style: Parent-Child and Adult-Adult*

Most of the questions you responded to in MAP pertain to a competency. Some statements, however, were included as a way of assessing your values .... the views you hold about work and workers.

Two sets of values have influenced the way in which people have managed the work of others. Douglas McGregor labeled them Theory X and Theory Y and described them in his classic book, *The Human Side of Enterprise*. More recently the field of transactional analysis (TA) brings a new pair of terms to our understanding of these sets of values: Parent-Child (Theory X) and Adult-Adult (Theory Y). The table below makes the distinction clear:



When we approach situations and people with the attitude that we are right and others are not (I'm OK, you're not OK), we are operating from the PARENT state. As shown at the right, there are two kinds of parent behavior. The "nurturing" parent tends to protect subordinates, to gather them under one's wings. This manager (the soft X) wants to be recognized as a friend.

In contrast to the nurturing parent, the “judgmental” parent (hard X) believes that employees are lazy or inadequate, and will typically do only what is expected of them. This manager believes that pay, working conditions, and incentives are the tools a supervisor must work with in order to induce employees to work, since the work itself is not considered to be sufficiently attractive in and of itself.

Now let’s interpret your own X and Y scores. If one is high and one is low, you show a clear preference for the high one. If both are high, you have developed a strong management style that is responsive to both types of employees and situations: Adult-Adult and Parent-Child. If both of your scores are low, you have not yet developed a management style. Perhaps you are relatively new to supervision, or are in a job where you manage tasks more than people. Of course, there are no right or wrong scores. The appropriateness of your two percentiles depends upon the work environment, the people you supervise, and your own evolution as a manager.

The following table describes some of the characteristics of the Theory X and Theory Y management styles. When you compare your score to the characteristics presented on the table, you may think, "My score is high on (Theory X or Theory Y), yet I don't necessarily agree with the statements or characteristics for that management type." It is possible, whether you are aware of it or not, to act in a manner contrary to what you believe.

Remember that your score was based on your answers to the MAP. There were questions embedded in the MAP that do not relate to the 12 competencies but rather the managerial style.

## Section II - (continued)

	<b>Theory X Parent-Child Relationships</b>	<b>Theory Y Adult-Adult Relationships</b>
<b>Manager's View of Work</b>	Work is a source of dissatisfaction. We must compensate for this through pay and benefits.	Work can be satisfying and challenging.... a major opportunity to test one's talents and develop them more fully.
<b>Manager's View of Workers</b>	Employees want less responsibility and security. They are dependent on supervisors to make decisions, solve problems, set goals, and keep them	Employees want more responsibility and challenge. They are capable of making decisions, solving problems, and setting goals for themselves if we but let them.
<b>Manager's View of Self</b>	I'm OK, you're not OK. People are too dependent on me. I end up having to do their thinking for them, and bailing them out.	I'm OK, you're OK. Once they've been trained, my role is that of a coach. I must step back and let them play the game.
<b>Motivation Used by Manager</b>	Carrot and stick: set up system of rewards and punishments to entice and coerce employees.	Work is inherently appealing: use it to give challenge, sense of achievement, recognition, responsibility, and growth.
<b>Expectations: the "Pygmalion Effect"</b>	This manager expects less of people than they are capable of .... and gets it! "Expect the worst and you won't be surprised."	This manager expects more of people than they knew they were capable of .... and gets it! "Expect the best (not perfection) and people will give their best effort."
<b>The Working Relationship</b>	"Employees are here to extend my effectiveness."	"I am here to extend the effectiveness of my employees."
<b>Motivation of Employees</b>	They spend most of their energy keeping the boss happy, harvesting the carrots, and avoiding the stick.	They invest their time meeting goals and standards that they and the manager have agreed to jointly.
<b>The Goal of the Organization for Employees</b>	To have workers trained as well-oiled machines that make few errors, require little maintenance, and function as highly dependable robots within a narrowly prescribed area of operations.	To develop people to the point where each is a manager of his/her own time and talent, solving problems and making decisions within an expanding area of freedom and responsibility.

## **Section III: Communication Response Style Scores with Narrative Explanation**

This section provides a narrative description of the different communication styles, and your percentage score for each style.

## **Section III - Communication Response Style Scores with Narrative Explanation**

### **Communication Response Style**

#### **THE NEED FOR AWARENESS**

A vital ingredient of effective communication is being aware of the power you have to affect how the other person(s) will respond to you. The more effectively you listen and respond to others, the more they become aware—even subconsciously—of your responsiveness. As a result, they are more likely to respond positively when your turn comes to talk. In short, your response style serves as a model for those you communicate with, and is likely to influence their response style when it's their turn to listen.

The pages that follow contain a description of the four response styles. All four were present in each of the items in the assessment. Your scores, reflecting your strength in each style, can be found on your profile in Section I. Here is a description of each style:

The empathic response is a non-judgmental reply that captures the essential theme and/or feeling expressed. This communication mode reflects a positive attitude, sorts out elements of personal value, and goes all the way in making the communication a two-way exchange. A person in this mode will listen between the lines for underlying meanings, will keep an open mind by staying out of a judgmental framework, and will focus on what would be useful to do rather than on what is wrong. This person concentrates on fostering respect, rapport, trust, and understanding.

A major element of this communication style is that the empathic responder avoids the temptation to give advice. When people are given the opportunity to talk about and think through their problems, they have a better understanding of the implications of their problem and will be able to work out their own action plan. Although empathic responders avoid suggesting a solution, they can still remain a resource person who can share information when appropriate. It is important to remember that you don't have to agree with what a person is saying to be an empathic listener. Your empathy extends to their feelings and what they might be experiencing .... it need not extend to their actions.

The critical response expresses judgment or evaluation that the other person often perceives as a put-down. This response often results from our natural tendency to judge others, either approvingly or disapprovingly. This responding style often challenges what people say and why they feel the way they do. Even though people may tell you that they want feedback and evaluation, most people do not take kindly to criticism, regardless of the spirit in which it was given.

There are three unfortunate outcomes of the critical response: The other person (1) feels rejected or put down; (2) will usually retreat or "clam up;" and (3) will not have a chance to release the feelings and emotions that they need to express. We all give way to critical responses from time to time. What is important is that we know when it's happening, and work to overcome the problems that our critical responses may create.

## Section III - (continued)

The searching response asks for additional information. Sometimes, we need more facts and feelings so as to understand the other person. Sometimes, the additional information will help us get to the root of a problem. Sometimes, we want to help the other person to “vent” and thereby express their emotions. These are all good reasons for using a searching response.

The timing of a searching response is very important. For example, consider the person who is speaking emotionally and in fragmented sentences, describing a current experience. Even though we have a lot of questions to ask, we might want to use a few empathic ones first (“Sounds like you’re really down”) to get their emotional level down to the point where they can think objectively and talk coherently. Then, when you feel they can be logical and analytical, you are ready to use the searching response.

The advising response is a recommendation that tells the other person what to do or not do. When we are busy thinking of solutions while the other person is talking, we cannot listen fully to what they are saying.

When we give another person advice, we deprive them of the chance to talk through the problem or opportunity. This kind of communication mode tends to build dependency relationships. Sometimes, the best help we can give others is to enable them to work out their own solutions. People feel more self-confident and behave more independently when they can plan and organize their own situations, rather than have others tell them what to do.

### ANALYZING YOUR SCORES

This instrument has been completed by thousands of people. The scores of the four response styles showed that the Advising response was used most often, the Searching response next, the Empathic response was third, and the Critical response was last.

People in a variety of occupations make up the vast majority of the population that has gone through this instrument. They evidently see their job as giving advice. However, the Advising response, like the Critical response, can get in the way of effective listening by short-circuiting the flow of information from the other person. In most interactions, these are not desirable responses to use.

Similarly, the Searching response can sometimes interrupt the other person’s flow of thought .... or can introduce your own biases (since the other person will answer your questions with information that meet your need to know but may or may not meet their needs).

This leaves the Empathic response as the most useful means of drawing people out and collecting information without distorting it. However, this response is one of the least natural to most people. Those who scored high on the Empathic response on this instrument had often read books or attended workshops on non-directive interviewing. In short, it takes a conscious effort on

## **Section IV: Personal Style Scores with Narrative Explanation**

This section provides a narrative description of the different personal styles, and your percentage score for each style.



## Section IV - Personal Style Scores with Narrative Explanation

### Personal Style Assessment

#### YOUR FOUR COMMUNICATION STYLES

Four personality patterns were first recognized and researched by the Swiss psychoanalyst, Carl Jung. According to Jung, what really accounts for our personality differences is the mixture of four patterns of behavior that each of us possesses. We are all a combination of Intuitor, Thinker, Feeler, and Sensor. This mixture is genetically determined, Jung believed, and can be seen in infants at an early age. Teachers in the elementary grades have no difficulty identifying the mixture in their students. Here is what each of the four children typically looks like:

The **intuitor** sits alone, seemingly daydreaming. In reality, this child is forming global concepts, integrating experience in different ways, looking for meaning in each, and constantly searching to know the why behind each what. Being told that something is true is not enough; the intuitor must discover it from personal experience.

The **thinker** has a strong need to be correct. This child demonstrates a structured and systematic approach to learning, gathering facts rather than ideas. The thinker is logical, organized, and systematic, and enjoys collecting and processing information and giving much attention to detail and precision.

The **feeler** enjoys dealing with the moods, feelings, and emotions of self and others. Learning is visceral as much as verbal. This child is empathetic, sentimental, and in tune with the feelings of others. Feelers are more concerned with the reactions of others than with objective reality.

The **sensor** is an action-oriented, learn-by-doing child who must grab the rock and hold it to know it's real. This student dissipates anxiety through action rather than by imagining, analyzing, or feeling. Restless, the sensor is tapping feet or fingers while the mind races ahead.

Although your mixture of these four behavior patterns might change slightly over time, they are inborn and relatively stable. Thus, the same characteristics that we just observed in children will be equally apparent as they grow into adults. The following chart shows some of the typical adult behavior displayed by each of the four styles. Bear in mind that there is always a risk of stereotyping, and that not all of the characteristics associated with your predominant style will apply.

### INTUITOR

Typical Telephone Behavior	Typical Office Decor or Surroundings	Typical Style of Dress	When Seen as Effective (Strength)	When Seen as Ineffective (Weakness)
Worthy but aloof. Impersonal. Goes off on tangents. Not mindful of your time.	Likely to demonstrate their imagination in their selection of new-wave furnishings and décor. Those in “think” occupations and professions have offices resembling many mini think-tanks: round conference tables, chalkboard or notes pinned to walls, offbeat periodicals.	Hard to predict. May be like “absent-minded professor,” more into ideas than image, al la Howard Hughes. May be too wrapped up in future goals to think about daily appearance. Alternatively may have imaginative self-concept that may reflect in clothes from stunning to outlandish.	original imaginative creative broad-gauged charismatic idealistic intellectually-tenacious ideological	unrealistic “far-out” fantasy-bound scattered devious out-of-touch dogmatic impractical

### THINKER

Typical Telephone Behavior	Typical Office Decor or Surroundings	Typical Style of Dress	When Seen as Effective (Strength)	When Seen as Ineffective (Weakness)
Business-like but lackluster. Little voice inflection. Ticks off specifics. Ordered, measured manner. Sometimes suggests ground-rules for phone conversation; i.e., “Shall we begin with your agenda or mine?”	Like their work surroundings to be correct and non-distracting. They select furnishings that are tasteful but conventional. Likely to have charts for business use, reports and reference works nearby. Few touches of informality and color.	Conservative, “proper.” Unassuming, understated. Dress invariably appropriate to circumstance. Business-like in office: well-tailored, “correct” in non-work atmosphere. Coordinated and tasteful but without color or excitement.	effective communicator deliberate prudent weighs-alternatives stabilizing objective rational analytical	verbose indecisive over-cautious over-analyzes unemotional non-dynamic controlled and controlling over-serious, rigid

### FEELER

Typical Telephone Behavior	Typical Office Decor or Surroundings	Typical Style of Dress	When Seen as Effective (Strength)	When Seen as Ineffective (Weakness)
Warm and friendly, sometimes seemingly too much so. Doesn't seem to distinguish between business and personal calls in the sense that he's likely to be quite informal. Interjects humor, personal associations, question about one's well-being, etc. Likes to "gossip." Talks incessantly. Feels rude if hangs up fast.	Tend to personalize their surroundings, make their offices informal and somewhat "homey." They like warm colors, antiques; big, live plants, mementos, snapshots rather than formal photographs of family. Papers and files, etc., are likely to be messy on the surface, "organized" underneath in a personal way only they can understand.	Dress is more according to own mood than to suit others' expectations. Likes colorful, informal clothes. Often has sentimental, favorite articles of clothing. Sometimes shows a hankering for old-fashioned touches or "costume" effects.	spontaneous persuasive empathetic grasps traditional values probing introspective draws out others' feelings loyal	impulsive manipulative over-personalizes sentimental postponing guilt-ridden stirs up conflict subjective

### SENSOR

Typical Telephone Behavior	Typical Office Decor or Surroundings	Typical Style of Dress	When Seen as Effective (Strength)	When Seen as Ineffective (Weakness)
Abrupt. Staccato. Gets to the point, expects others to do the same. Interrupts. Needs to control the conversation.	Generate atmosphere of hard-charging clutter. Mementos, if any, connote action. Desk is likely to be big, messy. Sensor is too busy to be neat, too action-oriented to be concerned with image unless coupled with a strong thinker back-up style.	Informal, simple, functional clothes are the order of the day. Wants to be neat but not fancy. Tends to categorize: everyday or dress-up. If sensors see the occasion as being "special," they throw simplicity to the winds; their competitive zeal then rises to the surface and they may "out-class" everyone.	pragmatic assertive directional results-oriented objective competitive confident	doesn't see long-range status seeking self-involved acts first then think slacks trust in others domineering arrogant

## Section IV - (continued)

### STYLE-FLEXING

The value of knowing your stronger and weaker styles is explained by the concept known as style-flexing. Simply put, we will be much more effective in understanding others and helping them to understand us if we're able to flex, or modify, a natural style when we recognize that the person with whom we're communicating has a different style than our own.

Every characteristic associated with the four communicating styles can be viewed as either a strength or a weakness. Your strengths, if carried to extremes, will be seen as weaknesses.

No one style is better or worse than the others, and all four styles are present in each of us. Some people have a fairly even balance over the four styles. Such a person should find it easier to style-flex than would a low Intuitor who is trying to communicate with a high Intuitor, since there is less distance to move.

There are two premises that underlie the value of learning about the four communication styles. One is that by knowing our own primary and secondary styles, we can become less sensitive to the way others see us. The other premise is even more valuable: by determining the primary style of any party we're talking with, we can then communicate with them in their own style, and be better understood and accepted. This is the concept of style-flexing, mentioned earlier.

If you just presented an idea and need feedback on how you've come across, here's how you might word your question for each of the four styles:

- To the Intuitor:** How does this concept strike you? What do you think of the direction I'm heading?
- To the Thinker:** Based on your own analysis of the situation, how would you weight the facts I've presented?
- To the Feeler:** At this point I have a need to know how you feel we're tracking, and what kind of reaction you've got so far
- To the Sensor:** I hope I haven't bored you with more detail than you need. What do you see as the pay-off here? And what action comes next?

Most of us have difficulty in communicating with some people. We suggest that "the chemistry just isn't right," or that "we're talking past one another." Jung's four communication styles offers a possible explanation for this difficulty: one person's high primary style was low for the other person. If either party had been able to style-flex to meet the other's primary style, then communication might have been more successful.

## **Section V: Development Suggestions**

Development suggestions are behavioral tips, practices, and recommendations for interventions that you can use to improve your performance in a competency. Your report will contain 4 to 12 sets of development suggestions, depending on your assessment results.

This section presents behavioral tips, practices, and recommendations for interventions that you can use to improve your performance in a competency. The competencies for which you will receive development suggestions are based on your assessment results. You will receive from 4 to 12 sets of development suggestions.

## Section V - Development Suggestions

### *Proficiency: Time Management and Prioritizing*

1. Before attending meetings, ask for the objectives, your role, and the ending time. If these are unclear, question the importance of your attendance.
2. Consider establishing “do not interrupt” times or working in quiet locations in order to get things done.
3. Consider using multiple communication channels for maximum efficiency; use voice mail or electronic mail whenever possible.
4. Consider your behavior when approaching deadlines. Do you meet them? Is it under extreme duress, as the deadline approaches? Are these “crunch times” avoidable? Can you identify strategies to avoid the before deadline crunch?
5. Consult with an extremely organized and efficient peer or manager. How does he/she manage time?
6. Decide if another person can perform any of your activities.
7. Delegate projects that have potential for future return on investment even though the time you spend with the person you select might take longer than doing it yourself the first time around.
8. Do your most important tasks when your energy and attention levels are at their highest.
9. Eliminate outside commitments that are not adding value to your career or your life.
10. Establish firm deadlines for projects, including intermediate deadlines. Discuss these with superiors and subordinates and plan your time accordingly.
11. Establish priorities for a period (a month, week, day) and allocate time accordingly.
12. Establish the objectives and the criteria (outcomes) to be met on any delegated task.
13. Evaluate the value-added of every investment of your time and your employees’ time: Is this meeting really necessary? Must this report be so long in order to meet the reader’s needs? Is this form or added signature absolutely necessary to safeguard the process?
14. Explain why you’ve picked the person you are delegating to, so they don’t feel “dumped on” or that they have been given an unfair assignment.
15. Have good people working for you and delegate to them whenever possible.
16. Have someone screen calls so you can ignore them or return them later.
17. If you are encountering repeated slowdowns or rework because you lack a particular managerial or technical skill, seek training and development opportunities in that area.
18. Keep a daily “to-do” list and prioritize your duties into high, medium, and low priorities. Do the next day’s list before you leave work.
19. Make a list of your work activities and keep a record of how much time you spend on each activity for a week. Analyze it to see where you are spending too much time and where you are not spending enough.
20. Minimize the amount of rework by trying to do things once and right for the first time—sorting through mail by dealing with it on the spot; writing a report after understanding the customer’s ultimate requirements and planning the report accordingly; clarifying your requirements to your employees so they get things right the first time, etc.
21. Organize your workspace.
22. Plan your day as an 8-hour day, and fit all of your job activities into that time frame.
23. Seek feedback from peers, employees, and managers about your time-management skills.
24. Select the best person for the job, not necessarily the least-busy or the least-likely to object.
25. Set aside a specific time each day to return phone calls.
26. Take a course in time management.
27. Use “schemes” to flag different priority levels (use colored flags for hot items, office trays, and electronic or calendar memory-joggers).
28. Use a checklist to record “to do” items and items completed.

## **Section V - Development Suggestions**

29. When attending a meeting, ask for the relevance of comments that sound like digressions.
30. When delegating, give the authority as well as the responsibility to get the job done.
31. When placing phone calls, start by stating your objective and the time that you will need. Then ask if now is a good time to talk or whether you should call the person back.
32. When you receive a call from a “talker,” tell them that you’ve got another activity in five minutes; then ask if five minutes is enough time.
33. When scheduling a meeting, invite participants for one of two reasons: They have input, or they are affected by the output. Let them know why you want them to attend.

## Section V - Development Suggestions

### *Proficiency: Setting Goals and Standards*

1. Ask your peers and subordinates for feedback on how you use power, authority, and influence. (Are you fair? Do you back down too quickly? Do you avoid conflict? Do you come across too strongly? Do you always have to win?)
2. Ask your supervisor and others in the organization for help in understanding the organizational mission, management policies, and customer needs. Make sure that your activities, services, and products are in accordance with those issues.
3. Assign weight to each major project or activity in order to reflect their relative importance (i.e., their contribution to organizational goals). Invest time and money in proportion to these weights.
4. Be aware of the goal and what must be accomplished, and accept the goal as something that you are willing to work for.
5. Before reaching a decision, evaluate the factual data and argue in your own mind the pros and cons of multiple courses of action. That will help you confidently reach and present a decision and stick with it.
6. Be clear and specific about your expectations for development from each employee: deliverables, how performance quality will be measured, timelines, etc.
7. Be factual when analyzing setbacks; avoid personalizing the causes of failure.
8. Before you begin to try to solve a problem, identify the data that you need in order to reach a solution, and how that data can best be obtained.
9. Be willing to work long hours and sacrifice in the short-term for long-term gains.
10. Collect reliable information that is pertinent to the decision. Use the data in deriving a decision.
11. Before deciding on an issue, solicit input from peers, employees, and managers on where they stand on the issue.
12. Consider multiple-decision alternatives, including the worst-case scenario for each decision.
13. Before presenting an option or solution, canvass for opinions and share information in advance, so that those who need to buy in to the issue are not surprised.
14. Consult others about your decision style and speed; consider this information as a basis for improvement.
15. Break challenging or large tasks into smaller, manageable tasks.
16. Create a climate in which your subordinates can bring up problems and issues at meetings.
17. Break goals down into subgoals that can be met in two or three months' time.
18. Discuss with other managers the data that you collect concerning a problem. Ask them for their diagnosis of the information.
19. Break projects into milestones, and celebrate when each milestone is reached.
20. Establish checkpoints to evaluate the continuing success of a decision, the downside risks at each point, and potential alternative strategies. If the downside risks appear to be materializing, consider adopting an alternative strategy early, before the negative consequences of the decision loom large.
21. Clearly delineate the decisions that employees are fully authorized to make on their own from those that require approval from you or others.
22. Have brainstorming sessions to come up with alternate solutions to problems. Record all ideas without making a judgment of any.
23. Closely link performance and rewards.
24. Hold group workshops to explore different perspectives of the problem.
25. Confer with your manager and reach agreement on how the outcome of each project/activity contributes in specific dollar-valued ways to the organization's goals.
26. Invite contributions from others, and be willing to listen to and discuss their ideas.



## Section V - Development Suggestions

27. Create rewards that are motivating and meaningful to the employee. Ask the employee for input on what they consider to be a reward.
28. Involve others in your problem-solving process. Ask for help when needed.
29. Develop a support system that you can turn to for help with obstacles and setbacks.
30. List all of the solutions to a problem that you can think of before you begin to evaluate them. (Brainstorming works well.)
31. Discuss objectives thoroughly with subordinates.
32. Practice being decisive by making quick decisions in low-risk decision areas.
33. Draw on peers and supervisors in order to understand your strengths and weaknesses as a manager.
34. Since most decisions are made with imperfect or incomplete information, it is important to be conscious of the decision shortcuts all people take, such as failing to consider alternatives, and being unduly influenced by whether the decision is framed as a gain or loss. Develop strategies to counter these tendencies.
35. Encourage employees to consult with you if they are encountering barriers to goal accomplishment.
36. Talk to others in your organization about how they incorporate risk-taking into their decision-making process.
37. Examine projects that have been successfully completed in order to identify factors accounting for success.
38. To avoid “groupthink,” require members of your work unit to research and argue the alternative viewpoint—to play devil’s advocate. It will bring about more understanding of the broader consequences.
39. For each project, set goals that are challenging (higher risk) yet achievable (lower risk).
40. Use a factual approach to decision-making by systematically collecting valid and reliable data; rely on these data rather than on emotions, even if the decision is unpopular. In turn, explain decisions in terms of data, not emotions.
41. Get estimates from everyone who will be working on the goal regarding the time required, resources needed, and dollar value of the goal. This will increase their commitment.
42. Give timely feedback to any employees who are not meeting expectations.
43. Hold regular progress-review meetings so that everyone working on the goals will develop team spirit and work to deliver.
44. If feasible, force yourself to finish a project before moving on to another by establishing short proximal (rather than distant) deadlines for each of the projects.

## Section V - Development Suggestions

### *Proficiency: Planning and Scheduling Work*

1. Anticipate potential problems and possible solutions ahead of time.
2. Assign weights to each item of data to reflect its relative importance or relevance to the concluding actions/thoughts.
3. Avoid jumping to conclusions by defining the problem in terms of solutions, which can cause you to overlook or discount other, possibly better, solutions.
4. Identify conclusions that do not flow logically from the premises (non-sequiturs).
5. Before making a decision, especially when the decision is made under time pressure, consult with respected experts.
6. Identify the premises (assumptions) that underlie statements, and question their logic.
7. Involve other persons when evaluating premises and conclusions. Two heads are better than one, three better than two.
8. Use decision-making tools to bring convergence among diverse points of view, such as the round-robin expression of ideas (nominal group technique), the devil's advocate technique, Delphi method (each successive round of idea exchange reflects a narrower band of opinions than the former round), etc.
9. Use general problem-solving processes, judgment, intuition, and creativity.
10. When making an uncertain decision, screen alternatives in order to determine how much risk each alternative has relative to the other alternatives.
11. With a behavioral problem such as low morale or absenteeism, look below the surface to understand what the underlying problem really is. Don't just treat the symptom.
12. If you are having trouble reaching your goals, list any obstacles that are impeding you, and decide if the obstacle needs to be addressed or if it will go away if left alone.
13. If you encounter temporary setbacks, analyze the causes of failure, and attempt to problem-solve around each.
14. If you tend to rely on your superiors for decision-making, force yourself to formulate alternatives, and then present recommendations instead of the problem to your superior.
15. Immediately after group formation, have the group identify the issues that they consider to be the most important concerns, and suggest ways in which these can be overcome.
16. Set up a suggestion system and develop mechanisms for prompt response to the suggestions.
17. Invite contributions from others and be willing to listen to and discuss their ideas.
18. Involve others in your problem-solving process. Ask for help when needed.
19. Keep a record of problems that arise so you can identify recurrent ones.
20. List all of the solutions to a problem that you can think of before you begin to evaluate them. Hold a brainstorming session.
21. Make sure that employees understand that quality-improvement efforts involve them. Include employees in the decision-making process so that they feel personal responsibility for accomplishing goals.
22. Observe how leadership emerged in the team.
23. Recognize that a team will go through phases. Assign tasks based on the phase that the team is in.
24. Since most decisions are made with imperfect information, it is important to be conscious of the decision shortcuts all people take, such as not considering all the alternatives, or being influenced by whether the decision is framed as a gain or loss. Develop strategies to counter these tendencies.
25. Sort out issues being discussed and decide which issues are critical.
26. Talk to others in your organization about how they can incorporate risk-taking into their decision-making process.

## **Section V - Development Suggestions**

27. To avoid “groupthink,” require members of your work unit to research and argue the alternative viewpoint—to play the devil’s advocate. It will add to their understanding of the implications of each choice.
28. Try to involve those in the problem-solving process who will be most affected by a controversial decision.
29. Use a factual approach to decision-making by systematically collecting valid and reliable data; rely on this data rather than on emotions, even if the decision is unpopular. In turn, explain decisions in terms of data, not emotions.
30. When making an uncertain decision, screen alternatives to determine how much risk each alternative holds relative to the other alternatives.
31. When mistakes are made, determine reasons why and find ways to prevent them from happening again.
32. When presenting decision-making information to a group, consider adopting round-robin procedures so that group member has the opportunity to express his/her views, thereby avoiding dominance of the group discussion by a vocal few.
33. When there is a problem that affects a group of employees, attempt to devise a solution through the group.
34. With a behavioral problem such as low morale or absenteeism, look deeply to understand what the underlying problem really is. Don’t just treat the symptom.

## Section V - Development Suggestions

### *Proficiency: Listening and Organizing*

1. After discussions with the relevant employee, document significant incidents of poor performance or corrective/disciplinary actions taken and send a copy to the employee.
2. Assess your interpersonal style by taking a questionnaire such as the Myers-Briggs; understand your own need to lead or follow, to think concretely or abstractly, etc. before you enter into a negotiation process.
3. Analyze yourself and know your positions regarding standards. Communicate these to your employees.
4. Be consistent and fair in responding to employees—use the same standards for all employees.
5. Be consistent in applying all organizational rules and policies; avoid making exceptions.
6. Be specific with subordinates about their ratings, and help each person develop a plan to improve weaknesses and capitalize on strengths.
7. Before you ask someone else for an opinion about a decision, choose one of the alternatives and develop a rationale for why that alternative is best. Then ask for input.
8. Document all corrective/disciplinary actions taken.
9. Encourage employees to approach you with their problems before they reach the grievance level.
10. Get employees involved in problem-solving and goal-setting. Help them to develop a sense of ownership.
11. Explain to employees how you reached the performance-appraisal conclusions, and encourage them to present their point of view when you meet with them individually.
12. Familiarize yourself with the organization's procedures for rewarding and disciplining performance.
13. Familiarize yourself with the organization's employment policy and rules regarding labor relations.
14. Follow up on the employee's behavior after taking corrective action.
15. Give feedback as soon as possible.
16. If an employee has performed a duty poorly, follow up immediately and express your concerns. Try to understand root causes, offer solutions, and set clear expectations on how the performance is to be corrected, and by what due date.
17. If employees are dissatisfied with something at work, encourage them to use the organization's grievance and/or complaint/suggestion systems.
18. If you are preparing to take an adverse action against an employee, follow a successive discipline policy, inform the employee, and maintain accurate documentation.
19. In cases of disciplinary action, get the employee to agree that a problem exists. Then discuss alternate solutions, and mutually agree on the best action to solve the problem.
20. Remember that your relationship with the employee or manager continues; try to create a solution that both parties can live with after this issue is over.
21. Provide personalized ways of acknowledging excellent performance among employees: personalized notes, letters for-the-record, notations on the performance-appraisal form, acknowledgement in front of senior management, etc.
22. Set a target date to review performance, and provide feedback on a regular basis. For example, decide to review a subordinate's work every 2 weeks; provide feedback within 24 hours of the review.
23. To learn to give good feedback, observe and practice the behavior of others. Concentrate on description instead of evaluation or judgment. Give the employee a chance to explain his or her side of the issue.
24. To reinforce positive behaviors, develop a habit of noticing and commending employees for those behaviors.
25. To the extent possible, support employees in their desire to volunteer for temporary assignments or attend formal training programs.
26. When appropriate, assign others to serve in supportive roles: mentor, coach, counselor, trainer, stockholder, champion.

## **Section V - Development Suggestions**

27. When giving feedback, focus on performance, not on personality.
28. When the performance is mixed, clearly separate the positive from the negative. Reinforce the positive, and provide factual corrections to the negative.
29. Work with employees to help them prepare an individual development plan for the next year that lists activities and goals for their personal growth and development.

## Section V - Development Suggestions

### *Proficiency: Giving Clear Information*

1. Set up individual discussions with subordinates in order to evaluate their workloads. Make adjustments to ensure that the amount of delegated work is appropriate.
2. Ask employees for their concerns in meeting your expectations; adjust if necessary.
3. Ask employees to repeat your expectations in order to ensure understanding.
4. Ask ex-employees, employees, peers, or managers who know you well for their observations of your delegation skills, and solicit their ideas on how you can improve.
5. Ask your employees to complete an anonymous questionnaire that includes items on how well you delegate.
6. Be clear and specific about your expectations of each employee, including deliverables, how performance quality will be measured, and deadlines or timeframes.
7. Break projects into “milestones” and celebrate when each milestone is reached.
8. Closely link performance and rewards.
9. Consider having an annual off-site meeting with the entire work group to discuss how well standards were met in the past year, and to set new standards for the upcoming year.
10. Consult someone you consider to be an effective delegator about ways to assign tasks and set up control and follow-up procedures.
11. Create a bulletin board for post-project goals and accomplishments to date.
12. Deal with the causes of conflict, not the symptoms.
13. Discuss objectives thoroughly with subordinates.
14. Do not allow subordinates to delegate “up.”
15. Encourage employees to consult with you if they are encountering barriers to goal accomplishment.
16. Establish the expected outcomes and the criteria to be met. Remember that you’re delegating an objective, not an activity.
17. Even when employees make a mistake, remind yourself that there is often more than one way of performing a duty.
18. Explain why you picked the person(s) to whom you are delegating, and point out their qualifications to do the job well.
19. Give timely feedback to any employees who are not meeting expectations.
20. Have a written or mental list of subordinate needs and strengths, and delegate accordingly.
21. Have the person(s) you’ve delegated to feed back to you what they will do so that you can check for correctness, sequence, and commitment to the task.
22. Identify tasks that are repetitive and time-consuming, and devise ways to delegate the entire task or parts of it.
23. Identify tasks where mistakes are not terribly costly, and delegate those.
24. If you don’t think it’s worth the time to train someone, identify tasks that are time-consuming and/or repetitive, so that your investment is worthwhile.
25. If you lack confidence in your subordinates’ abilities, or you are a perfectionist, identify relatively minor tasks that do not require perfection or where mistakes will have only a minor impact.
26. Lead by example, and instill your values in everything that you do.
27. Make sure employees receive a copy of the work unit’s goals and make certain that their role in meeting these goals is clear.
28. Meet with subordinates on a regular basis to discuss objectives and progress made toward meeting goals.
29. Outline and explain to employees how the work of their work unit relates to the strategic direction of the organization.

## **Section V - Development Suggestions**

30. Periodically set aside time to identify responsibilities you are personally handling that might be handled by others.

## Section V - Development Suggestions

### *Proficiency: Getting Unbiased Information*

1. Ask open-ended questions that require more than a “yes” or “no” answer.
2. Ask others to evaluate your listening skills and then suggest ways to improve them.
3. Avoid thinking about your next question while your respondent is speaking. Pay full attention to what is being said.
4. Be pleasant, positive, and non-judgmental (adult-to-adult, not parent-to-child).
5. Before conducting an interview, write out the question and plan the sequence. Then throw your notes away.
6. Consider proxemics (an individual’s use of space). Most manager-subordinate relationships begin in the social zone (from 4 to 12 feet) and progress to the personal zone (from 18 inches to 4 feet) after mutual trust has developed. Smaller or larger distances can make people uncomfortable.
7. Do not show impatience while others are speaking and do not interrupt them.
8. Eliminate barriers to listening, such as an uncomfortable environment, noise, or interruptions.
9. Employ the “funnel technique” (i.e., start with non-directive questions, then use self-appraisal questions, then use directive questions to complete the picture).
10. Look for gaps—what isn’t being said—and probe where necessary (e.g., “You haven’t mentioned the team’s reaction.” “They have been pretty angry.”).
11. Maintain a slow, relaxed style when you are trying to elicit feelings or information that might be touchy (confidential, embarrassing, etc.).
12. Since people are likely to say what they think you want to hear, try not to interject your feelings and opinions. Avoid giving them clues.
13. Take an interpersonal communication course to develop skills for communicating one-on-one.
14. Try to imagine yourself in the other person’s role, and anticipate how your communication is likely to be received and accepted.
15. Use open-ended questions that keep your respondent doing most of the talking.
16. Use probes that keep your respondent talking (e.g., “I see,” “Hmmm, that’s interesting,” “Tell me more,” “Can you elaborate,” “Really.”).
17. Use questions like these: “What do you think?” “How did you react?” “How would you handle the situation?” “Why should we turn down their proposal?”
18. When appropriate, conduct a group interview with 3 to 6 people. You can then cross-check to see how widespread the responses are. Also, the comments of each respondent will trigger other responses, giving you a more complete picture.
19. When interviewing more than one person, follow a guideline and ask the same questions, so that you can compare and verify responses.
20. When interviewing or eliciting opinions, remember that the more you get your respondent to do the talking, the more successful you’ll be.
21. When the other person has answered your question, summarize to confirm your understanding.
22. Use action verbs whenever possible instead of passive ones to make your writing more expressive. One way to make sure that your sentence ends up in the active voice is to start the sentence with the subject (“John writes exceptional reports,” instead of “John’s reports are exceptional.”).
23. Show support and respect to employees when they seek your advice in areas related to their work.
24. Take on a project that is impossible to do alone; bring in others, and share the responsibilities with them.



## Section V - Development Suggestions

### *Proficiency: Training, Coaching, and Delegating*

1. Always explain how work-unit goals and project goals contribute to the success of the organization.
2. As soon as the interview is over, make notes that capture the facts and feelings you've just uncovered.
3. Among employees, identify skill deficiencies that are barriers to delegation, and offer opportunities for employee development in these areas.
4. Avoid expressing or encouraging prejudices (e.g., "Harry never has anything important to say." "Joanne's grammar and diction are atrocious." "Bill takes forever to express himself.").
5. Be aware of your body language and nonverbal communication. Conflicting nonverbal cues can be stronger than your verbal message.
6. Be concise. Use short, simple words and short, clear sentences.
7. Before responding to others, rephrase the statement or message to confirm understanding and to provide time to formulate a response.
8. Consider proxemics (an individual's use of space). Most manager-subordinate relationships begin in the social zone (from 4 to 12 feet) and progress to the personal zone (from 18 inches to 4 feet) after mutual trust has developed. Smaller or larger distances can make people uncomfortable.
9. Break complex subjects down into smaller ideas, and present these ideas incrementally.
10. Create an outline before you start writing a report, memo, or letter.
11. Concentrate fully on what is being said. Don't let your mind wander or think about what you are going to say next. Don't try to do other tasks while listening.
12. Develop a clear vision in your mind of what you want to say and then stick to it without rambling.
13. Confirm the speaker's purpose in sharing the information with you (i.e., what action, if any, is expected).
14. Develop a relaxed, informal style. This will help put your audience at ease.
15. Confirm understanding by rephrasing the speaker's message. Begin with "Let me make sure I understand what you are saying. I hear three main points. First . . ."
16. Don't stray from your subject or include irrelevant information. Don't repeat yourself unless summarizing at the end of the communication.
17. Emphasize clarity, organization, and your purpose when writing a business letter or memo. Whenever possible, limit letters or memos to one page.
18. Employ an interpreter for the hearing-impaired when necessary.
19. Establish and maintain eye contact with your audience.
20. Gear your speech or presentation to the level of the audience. Be aware of what they already know and what you want to communicate to them.
21. Have someone proofread your writing for errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and sentence structure. Take note of the errors that you make most often and learn the rules needed for improvement.
22. If you are frequently misunderstood, ask your superior or peers for feedback on your communication style.
23. In planning for important dialogues (e.g., performance approval, sales presentation), write out a script in advance to help you decide on wording and sequence. Then throw the script away.
24. Interact with the speaker in nonverbal ways to show that you are listening (i.e., nod head, smile when appropriate, maintain eye contact, etc.).
25. Observe effective presenters in your organization, in public forums, and on television; analyze the sources of their effectiveness.
26. Practice giving speeches and presentations in front of the mirror and in front of another person who can provide feedback. Videotaping your rehearsal can be helpful.

## Section V - Development Suggestions

27. Practice your oral communication skills by volunteering to speak in front of groups. Opportunities in your community can be good practice. If you need more skills, take a public-speaking course or join a public-speaking club.
28. Record several of your conversations, and then analyze them to determine how you sound to others. Consider your tone, speed, wordiness, use of “uhs,” clarity, and enthusiasm. Develop an improvement plan, if needed.
29. When you feel the other person has stopped short of giving you a complete answer, probe to get the additional information (e.g., “That’s interesting . . . Tell me more . . . What happened next? . . . How did he react?”).
30. Think before you speak. Don’t be afraid to pause to collect your thoughts before answering a question.
31. When your respondent has stopped answering a question, smile, nod, and pause five seconds before continuing. This gives the respondent time to add something else.
32. Try to put yourself into the other person’s role, and anticipate how your communication is likely to be received and accepted.
33. Use examples, analogies, figures of speech, and verbal illustrations to convey ideas quickly and clearly. A verbal picture is worth a thousand words.
34. Leave “white space” on the printed page to improve readability. Short pauses when you are speaking make the listener’s job easier.
35. Use oral communication to check understanding when: you are exploring complex issues; when confidential or sensitive material is being discussed or uncertainty is being expressed; when a more personal and intimate communication is needed; when practical demonstrations are being given or a relationship is being established; or when immediate feedback and dialogue are desired.
36. Vary your vocal dynamics (speed, pitch, volume) to maintain interest and to highlight your message.
37. Write short sentences and paragraphs. They are easier to read and understand.

## Section V - Development Suggestions

### *Proficiency: Appraising People and Performance*

1. Ask a supervisor, peer, or friend to give feedback on your writing. Revise your text if their understanding of your ideas does not match your intent.
2. Ask the other person to restate what you have said, to make sure they understand. If there is no understanding, there has been no communication.
3. Avoid overloading a presentation. Think of the few core ideas you want to communicate; focus on those, and provide the audience with written, more-detailed information.
4. Avoid speaking in a monotone. Vary the pitch, pace, and volume of your voice.
5. Be aware of your body language and nonverbal communication. Conflicting nonverbal cues can be stronger than your verbal message.
6. Create a large bulletin board or whiteboard and use it to list objectives and accomplishments to date toward meeting them.
7. Create a personal checklist to track how many deadlines are met in advance, how many are met on time, and how many are missed.
8. Confirm understanding by summarizing the speaker's key points.
9. Determine which project activities are linear (sequential, done in series) and which are branching (simultaneous, done in parallel).
10. Consider proxemics (an individual's use of space). Most manager-subordinate relationships begin in the social zone (from 4 to 12 feet) and progress to the personal zone (from 18 inches to 4 feet) after mutual trust has developed. Smaller or larger distances can make people uncomfortable.
11. Develop project-management tracking systems that alert you to missed interim dates or deadlines.
12. Develop standards of work-unit performance, and communicate them to employees.
13. Do not show impatience while others are speaking and do not interrupt them.
14. Discuss with subordinates how to practice and manage quality in everything that your department does. Ask them what "quality" means to them.
15. Eliminate barriers to listening, such as an uncomfortable environment, noise, or interruptions.
16. Encourage the improvement of your employees' attitudes, skills, and performance in order to improve the quality of services, products, and processes.
17. Focus on content more than process—that is, on what is being said and why, rather than on who is saying it and how they are coming across (since the "who" and "how often" arouse bias).
18. Encourage your employees to see problems as opportunities to improve the quality of services, products, and processes.
19. Form mental associations (analogies, examples, illustrations) that will help you to remember.
20. Establish an incentive system to reward suggested improvements that generate money or save that money (e.g., giving a percentage of money saved/generated to the employee).
21. If you disagree with what you are hearing, avoid attacking the presenter; point out some factual disagreements with the ideas and request clarification.
22. Examine projects that have been successfully completed in order to identify factors accounting for success.
23. If your mind is elsewhere, tell the speaker, "You've caught me at a bad time. My mind is elsewhere. Can we talk later—say, after three?"
24. Interact with the speaker in nonverbal ways to show that you are listening (i.e., nod head, smile when appropriate, maintain eye contact, etc.).
25. Interrupt the speaker when you hear unfamiliar words, inconsistencies, technical jargon, or other barriers to clear understanding.
26. Listen for key words and phrases that embody the speaker's ideas.

## Section V - Development Suggestions

27. Make notes of important information you want to remember.
28. Practice listening skills by listening to a news broadcast and testing yourself on how much you can remember.
29. Remember that you learn more while listening than while talking.
30. Take an interpersonal communication course so you can develop skills for communicating one-on-one.
31. Try to imagine yourself in the other person's role, and anticipate how your communication is likely to be received and accepted.
32. Use different wording to summarize the speaker's message: "Are you saying that . . .?"

## Section V - Development Suggestions

### *Proficiency: Disciplining and Counseling*

1. Anticipate the speaker's purpose as you listen; modify your assumptions as you receive new information.
2. Ask open-ended questions that require more than a "yes" or "no" answer.
3. Ask others to evaluate your listening skills and suggest ways to improve them.
4. For each of your unit's goals, develop a detailed plan through consultation with others that specifies how you will accomplish the goal and by when, and the kinds of resource support needed to make it happen.
5. Formulate an operational plan by: defining the objectives; designing the organization in order to achieve the goals and objectives; assigning responsibilities; allocating the resources; and becoming aware of potential problems.
6. Have a staff meeting to establish priorities. Assign capable subordinates to head up projects and report to you.
7. Hold brief meetings once a week on the different factors affecting quality. List those factors where the opportunity for improvement is the greatest.
8. Identify each activity as value-adding or non value-adding, and simplify the project design so as to maximize the productive, value-adding time.
9. Identify the critical path on your PERT or Gantt chart and adjust time and money on the other (slack) paths so as to keep the critical path on target.
10. If things are not going according to plan, analyze root causes, attempt to correct, and evaluate whether revisions are necessary to the unit's goals and plans.
11. If things are not going according to plan, analyze root causes, attempt to correct, and evaluate whether revisions are necessary to the unit's goals and plans.
12. List the resources that will be necessary to reach objectives, and decide how each resource will be obtained. Request that each employee specify his or her resource needs in order to accomplish assignments.
13. Post the numbers weekly or monthly to show output on the projects or tasks being done. This keeps a sharp focus on performance.
14. Read and review documents that cover management policies affecting your job duties and responsibilities.
15. Review the mission, evaluate threats and opportunities in the environment, and plan specific actions each year.
16. Set aside concentrated time with your staff to jointly develop goals for the work unit.
17. Submit success stories to the organization's newsletter, the local newspaper, trade journals, etc. Share reprints with members of your work group.
18. Train your work group in the basic techniques of methods-improvement and work simplification.
19. When mistakes are made, determine reasons why and find ways to prevent them from happening again.

## Section V - Development Suggestions

### *Proficiency: Identifying and Solving Problems*

1. Accept that demands for change are often met with resistance or even resentment. Give the other person an opportunity to accept or reject your feedback and to give their side.
2. Ask your superior and others in the organization for help in understanding the organizational mission, management policies, and customer needs. Make sure that your activities, services, and products are in accordance with those issues.
3. Ask employees to identify the areas in which they believe coaching will be most helpful.
4. Assess how well you structure your work by consulting with managers, peers, and employees.
5. Ask questions to make sure that the other person has heard and understands you correctly. Have the employee restate what you have said.
6. Assign time estimates for each activity, factoring them with the formula that assigns weights to the optimistic, most-likely, and most-pessimistic estimates.
7. Ask the recipient if they agree with your feedback and whether or not they have ever been given similar feedback.
8. Before launching a project, brainstorm with team members to identify the many things that can go wrong. Forewarned is forearmed.
9. Be consistent in evaluating performance and in providing feedback; apply the same positive and negative standards to all employees.
10. Conduct a study to measure productivity in your work group. Calculate the ratios of output to input: transactions per hour, minutes per customer served, deliveries per miles driven, service calls per day, etc.
11. Be specific, avoiding general comments such as “that was awful.”
12. Confirm the project goals and expected outcomes in terms that are measurable, observable, and relevant to the organization’s objectives.
13. Before conducting a performance-feedback session, take notes on the key items of information that will be passed along to the employee and stick to these items of information during the feedback session; do not wander off the topic.
14. Consider incorporating the voice of the internal and external customer into problem analysis. Reward your employees for incorporating customer feedback into solutions.
15. Before giving the feedback, weigh the pros and cons of changes that might result because of the feedback.
16. Construct a flow chart that shows the relationships and interdependencies of each activity and event.
17. Continuously evaluate how well the organization/department is doing in achieving its objectives. Have regular meetings to keep your department informed.
18. Describe in detail the behavior that you are praising when you provide positive feedback, so the employee knows which behavior to continue.
19. Direct feedback toward behavior that can be changed, not toward something a person can do nothing about.
20. Document and remember the positive and the negative aspects of individual performance. (We have a tendency to remember and place too much importance on negative performance.)
21. Make sure that the other person is aware of the repercussions or implications of ignoring the feedback.
22. Help others by identifying the resources and people (yourself included) who can help them to develop professionally.
23. If employees seem uninterested in developing themselves, help them identify areas of their job that they like most, and focus developmental efforts on those areas.

## Section V - Development Suggestions

24. If you provide negative feedback, provide it promptly and factually; note the defect, the desired level of performance, and suggested solutions to the performance problem. Do not engage in emotional arguments over the issue with the employee. Stick to “just the facts.” Do not give feedback when you are angry or upset.
25. In giving negative feedback, separate the person from the performance. Do not personalize negative feedback (Do NOT say things like “You are lazy.”). Rather, talk about the behaviors that are wrong (e.g., “this is the third time you are late with a report.”).
26. Let employees know that you are willing to provide feedback, so that they will come to you for advice before mistakes are made.
27. Positive and negative feedback should be provided promptly; do not wait for the performance review.
28. Try to recall instances when your managers tried to use feedback to model behaviors that worked, avoid doing things that you were subject to in the past that affected you adversely.
29. Recognize what the person has done well, and encourage them to build on these strengths.
30. Set aside time at least once a year to discuss with each employee his/her career aspirations, and provide advice to help him/her get there.
31. Specify a follow-up session to review progress.
32. Take responsibility for the feedback that you are providing, instead of passing along the unanimous opinions of others. Use “I think” or “in my opinion” instead of “you are.”
33. If you are having trouble reaching your goals, list any obstacles that are impeding you, and decide if the obstacle needs to be addressed or if it will go away if left alone.
34. If you encounter temporary setbacks, analyze the causes of failure and attempt to problem-solve around each.
35. In assigning yourself and others to new projects and activities, agree on the split of time between these one-time assignments and the regular job.
36. Limit the number of new projects or activities to 3–5 per year.
37. Meet with subordinates on a regular basis to discuss objectives and progress made toward meeting goals.
38. Prepare charts (PERT, Gantt, CPM) that you and your team can use to track and control progress over time.
39. Review the mission, evaluate threats and opportunities in the environment, and plan specific actions each year.
40. Revisit and restate the organization’s goals every few months, and demonstrate how the new projects and activities support them in measurable ways.
41. Reward performances by having everyone who is working on the goals recognize the individual contributions of others.
42. To get practice in developing others, volunteer for a task-leader role that is manageable within your time constraints.
43. Reward performance in two ways: salary for performance against the job description, and bonuses for performance against the objectives of one-time projects and activities.
44. Try always to leave time in your day for informal employee discussions related to their work.
45. Seek a credible champion of the issue you are aiming to change: someone who will support your position and rally others around it.
46. When establishing work goals and expectations with an employee, solicit the employee’s input on his or her view of the work goals, as well as the best strategy for accomplishing them. To the extent possible, build on the employee’s input in establishing expectations.
47. Set aside concentrated time with your staff to jointly develop goals for the work unit.
48. Train yourself and your staff to distinguish among the following: wishes, activities, goals, standards, quotas.

## **Section V - Development Suggestions**

49. When establishing work goals and expectations with an employee, solicit the employee's input on his or her view of the work goals and the best strategy for accomplishing them; to the extent possible, build on the employee's input in establishing expectations.
50. When you experience temporary setbacks, set the task aside for a short time.
51. When you have a project goal, develop interim goals and timelines, and force yourself to adhere to the schedule.
52. Work with the other party to find the best solution for you both. Commit to the solution and together develop a specific plan to execute it.



## Section V - Development Suggestions

### *Proficiency: Making Decisions, Weighing Risk*

1. Review effective and ineffective decisions to identify systematic factors that account for successful and failed decision processes and outcomes.
2. Ask each group member if he or she was treated fairly by the leader and others.
3. Ask the group members what is hindering them from completing their tasks.
4. Avoid the need to gather and analyze too much data before making a decision.
5. Be aware of the goal and what must be accomplished, and accept the goal as something that you are willing to work for.
6. Before reaching a decision, evaluate the factual data and argue out in your own mind the pros and cons of various optional courses of action. That will enable you to confidently reach and present a decision and stick with it.
7. Before reaching a decision, make sure that all involved agree on the definition of the problem.
8. Before you ask someone else for an opinion about a decision, choose one of the alternatives and develop a rationale for why that alternative is best. Then ask for input.
9. Before you begin to try to solve a problem, identify the data that you need in order to reach a solution, and decide how that data can best be obtained.
10. Consider incorporating the voice of the internal and external customer into the employee performance-appraisal and feedback process. Reward your employees for positive feedback from customers.
11. Consider multiple-decision alternatives, including the worst-case scenario for each decision.
12. Consider your problem-solving skills and list three skills that you would like to improve. Ask your superior or peers for suggestions to help you improve.
13. Consult others about your decision style and speed; consider this information as a basis for improvement.
14. Create a climate in which your subordinates can raise problems and issues in front of each other at meetings.
15. Develop a support system that you can turn to for help with obstacles and setbacks.
16. Develop disciplined decision processes in your work group whereby all elements of the decision must be backed with researched information.
17. Develop disciplined decision processes in your work group whereby all elements of the decision must be backed with researched information and planned action.
18. Discuss with other managers the data that you collect concerning a problem. Ask them for their diagnosis of the information.
19. Emphasize activities that are inclusive (for the entire work unit, teams, etc.).
20. Whenever possible, aim for a collaborative rather than an adversarial solution.
21. Encourage co-workers to establish informal boundaries around their job duties, so that they can readily reach out and assist a peer if the work calls for it.
22. Encourage the improvement of your employees' attitudes, skills, and performances in order to improve the quality of services, products, and processes.
23. Establish checkpoints to evaluate the continuing success of a decision, the downside risks at each point, and potential alternative strategies. If the downside risks appear to be materializing, consider adoption of an alternative strategy relatively early, before the negative consequences of the decision loom large.
24. For major decisions, revisit them more than once.
25. Have brainstorming sessions to come up with alternate solutions to problems. Record all ideas without judging any.
26. Have the group leader specify the expectations of the group members.

## **Section V - Development Suggestions**

27. Help the team members decide how they will communicate within the group, and how decisions will be reached.

## Section V - Development Suggestions

### *Proficiency: Thinking Clearly and Analytically*

1. Recognize the emotions that might be getting in the way of clear thinking.
2. Separate cause from correlation. Two sets of data can be correlated without any causal relationship.
3. Separate fact from opinion, and look for ways of testing opinion and converting it to fact where possible.
4. When appropriate, draw Venn diagrams to represent the premises and the conclusions. This helps in depicting relationships clearly.
5. Withhold judgment until all the facts are in and have been weighed.
6. Write out your reaction to the thoughts and actions of others. This slows down the analysis and often yields insights not present at first glance.
7. When presenting decision-making information to a group, consider adopting round-robin procedures to provide each group member the opportunity to express their views, thereby avoiding dominance of the group discussion by a vocal few.
8. Hold brainstorming sessions.
9. Hold group workshops to explore different perspectives of problems.
10. If open communication is an objective, encourage it by demonstrating equity and fairness regardless of the ideas expressed.

## **Section VI: Individual Development Plan**

This IDP should be used to select your development priorities and the development suggestions you will use to begin improving your competence.

## Section VI - Individual Development Plan

Each manager taking the Managerial Assessment of Proficiency (MAP) has a unique set of roles and responsibilities, carried out in a work organization and environment with unique characteristics. Managers also have different sets of co-workers/employees, and therefore your relationships with them are unique.

Because of this, individual development planning is included as an integral part of the Managerial Assessment of Proficiency (MAP). The following guide will help you relate your competency scores, development priorities, personal style, communication style, and managerial style (Theory X and Theory Y) to your own situation and style.

You can use the information presented in sections I through VI of this report to fill in your IDP.

## *Creating an Individual Development Plan for Competencies*

### *Steps*

#### 1. Identify development priorities.

You have been provided lists of development suggestions for from four to 12 competencies assessed by the MAP. Development suggestions were provided to you for competencies because:

- All participants receive a minimum of four sets of development suggestions for their four highest development priorities (and)
- Additional competencies indicated a combination of a lower score with a significant level of importance to your job.

Write your highest development priorities on the Development Planning Worksheet. Development priorities should be based on:

- Competencies that are most important to your job
- Competencies with the lowest scores
- Your own perceptions of your strengths and needs
- Your career goals

**Note:** You can use the competencies for which development suggestions were produced in your report to identify your development priorities.

#### 2. Identify two or four development activities for each priority.

- You can use the Development Suggestions in your report as a resource for development activities. Keep in mind, however, that these suggestions are merely stimuli for your development. They do not offer hard and fast rules that must be followed.
- Also consider additional activities from such sources as recommendations from your supervisor or a mentor.
- Feel free to create your own development activities as appropriate for your situation.
- Try to combine different kinds of activities (e.g., one on-the-job activity, one workshop, and a few related readings). The variety will reinforce your learning.
- List your activities in the second column of the Development Planning Worksheet.

## Section VI - (continued)

### *Creating an Individual Development Plan for Competencies (continued)*

#### *Steps*

3. Identify any others who may be involved in your development activities.
  - It is imperative to identify others who will be involved in your development efforts. This will help you as you implement your plan, especially in coordinating the involvement of others.
  - Examples include your supervisor, training and development specialists in your organization, your subordinates, your peers, or a mentor.
  - List those who need to be involved in the third column of the Development Planning Worksheet.
4. Determine a realistic timeframe for completing each development activity.
  - Keep in mind that your development goals should be challenging, but not unreasonable. Do not set timeframes that you cannot realistically meet. On the other hand, do not set a timeframe so far out that you forget about it.
  - You may want to consult your supervisor to help you determine how you will coordinate your development activities with your other work activities.
  - Write your timeframes in the last column of the Development Planning Worksheet.
5. Repeat the process for each development priority.
6. Discuss your completed development plan with your supervisor.
  - Guidelines for conducting a meeting with your supervisor are included on the next page.
  - Make any necessary adjustments to your development plan based on your supervisor's feedback.

## Section VI - (continued)

### *Creating an Individual Development Plan for Styles/Values*

1. What one or two actions can I take based on information about my personal style that could improve my managerial effectiveness?

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2. What one or two actions can I take based on information about my communication style that could improve my managerial effectiveness?

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3. What one or two actions can I take based on my Theory X and Theory Y scores that could improve my managerial effectiveness?

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4. What two or three areas related to my communication style, personal style, or managerial style could I use some coaching on?

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## Section VI - (continued)

### *Guidelines for Discussing Your Development Plan with Your Supervisor*

Admittedly, discussing your development plan with your supervisor may make you feel uneasy or awkward. However, the benefits of such a discussion are substantial:

- You can clear up any misunderstandings in your date.
- You will have a clearer understanding of your supervisor's expectations.
- Your supervisor will have a clearer understanding of your goals and aspirations.
- You and your supervisor will both be committed to your development plan.

Consider the following guidelines for holding a meeting with your supervisor to discuss your assessment results, development plan, and development goals.

- Schedule the meeting in advance. State the purpose of the meeting and indicate to your supervisor that his/her input is important to you.
- Do NOT schedule the meeting as part of your performance appraisal. The assessment is designed for developmental purposes only; combining it with your performance appraisal may "muddy the waters."
- Be prepared. You should have given copies of your assessment and your development plan to your supervisor beforehand. If possible, ask your supervisor to complete the assessment for you.
- Try not to be defensive. This is probably easier said than done; however, keep in mind that this discussion is for your benefit. Try to remain objective so that your assessment results and your development plan can be put to the best use for you.

















## Section VI - Individual Development Plan

### *Appraising People and Performance*

Development Priority	Development Activities	Others Involved	Timeframe

## Section VI - Individual Development Plan

### *Disciplining and Counseling*

Development Priority	Development Activities	Others Involved	Timeframe

# **Section VI - Individual Development Plan**

## *Identifying and Solving Problems*

<b>Development Priority</b>	<b>Development Activities</b>	<b>Others Involved</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>

# Section VI - Individual Development Plan

## *Making Decisions, Weighing Risk*

Development Priority	Development Activities	Others Involved	Timeframe

# Section VI - Individual Development Plan

*Thinking Clearly and Analytically*

Development Priority	Development Activities	Others Involved	Timeframe