***The Theory of Multiple Intelligences***

*Adapted from “Multiple Intelligences” by Melissa Kelly and “Gardner’s Theory of Multiple Intelligences” by Kendra Cherry*

* [*http://712educators.about.com/od/multipleint/a/Multiple-Intelligences.htm*](http://712educators.about.com/od/multipleint/a/Multiple-Intelligences.htm)
* [*http://psychology.about.com/od/educationalpsychology/ss/multiple-intell.htm*](http://psychology.about.com/od/educationalpsychology/ss/multiple-intell.htm)

When you hear the word intelligence, the concept of IQ testing may immediately come to mind. Intelligence is often defined as our intellectual potential; something we are born with, something that can be measured and a capacity that is difficult to change. In recent years, however, other views of intelligence have emerged. One such conception is the theory of multiple intelligences proposed by Harvard psychologist [Howard Gardner](http://psychology.about.com/od/eindex/g/episodic-memory.htm).

This theory suggests that traditional psychometric views of intelligence are too limited. Gardner first outlined his theory in his 1983 book Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences, where he suggested that all people have different kinds of "intelligences."Gardner proposed that there are eight intelligences, and has suggested the possible addition of a ninth known as "existentialist intelligence".

In order to capture the full range of abilities and talents that people possess, Gardner suggests that people do not have just an intellectual capacity, but have many different intelligences including musical, interpersonal, spatial-visual and linguistic intelligences. While a person might be particularly strong in a specific area, such as musical intelligence, they most likely possess a range of abilities. For example, an individual might be strong in verbal, musical and naturalistic intelligence.

***Linguistic Intelligence Definition:***

Linguistic intelligence, one of Gardner's Nine [Multiple Intelligences](http://712educators.about.com/od/multipleint/a/Multiple-Intelligences.htm), involves a strong ability to understand and use spoken and written language. This can include the ability to express oneself effectively through speech or the written word and the increased ability to learn foreign languages. Further, information is learned effectively through the written word. Writers, poets, lawyers and speakers are among those that Howard Gardner sees as having high linguistic intelligence.

**Individuals Who Typically Have High Linguistic Intelligence:**

* Writers
* Poets
* Public Speakers
* Politicians
* Lawyers
* Comedians

**Famous People Who Have High Linguistic Intelligence:**

* Martin Luther King
* Robert Frost
* Robin Williams
* Barack Obama
* J.K. Rowling

**Traits of Those Who Have High Linguistic Intelligence:**

* Like to read and/or write
* Learn best through reading or listening to material
* Like word games
* Good at speaking in public
* Good at spelling

***Logical-Mathematical Intelligence Definition:***

Logical-Mathematical intelligence, one of Gardner's Nine [Multiple Intelligences](http://712educators.about.com/od/multipleint/a/Multiple-Intelligences.htm), involves a strong ability to analyze problems and issues logically, excel at mathematical operations, and carry out scientific investigations. This can include the ability to use formal and informal reasoning skills such as deductive reasoning and to detect patterns. Scientists, mathematicians, and accountants are among those that Howard Gardner sees as having high logical-mathematical intelligence.

**Individuals Who Typically Have High Logical-Mathematical Intelligence:**

* Scientists
* Accountants
* Computer Programmers
* Mathematicians
* Inventors

**Famous People Who Have High Logical-Mathematical Intelligence:**

* [Thomas Edison](http://712educators.about.com/od/speechesquotes/a/edison_quotes.htm)
* [Albert Einstein](http://712educators.about.com/od/speechesquotes/a/albert_einstein_quotes.htm)
* Bill Gates
* Warren Buffet
* Stephen Hawking

**Traits of Those Who Have High Logical-Mathematical Intelligence:**

* Like to work math problems
* Excel at strategy games
* Look for rational explanations
* Like scientific pursuits
* Good at working out problems
* Like to categorize

***Visual-Spatial Intelligence Definition:***

Visual-Spatial intelligence, one of Gardner's Nine [Multiple Intelligences](http://712educators.about.com/od/multipleint/a/Multiple-Intelligences.htm), involves how well an individual processes visual information. This includes the ability to visualize objects and rotate, transform, and otherwise manipulate them. It is a foundational intelligence upon which many of the other intelligences rely and interact. Engineers and scientists are among those that Howard Gardner sees as having high visual-spatial intelligence.

**Individuals Who Typically Have High Visual-Spatial Intelligence:**

* Physicists
* Architects
* Engineers
* Builders
* Artists
* Computer Science
* Designers

**Famous People Who Have High Visual-Spatial Intelligence:**

* Leonardo DaVinci
* Frank Lloyd Wright
* Pablo Picasso
* Ralph Lauren
* Galileo Galilei

**Traits of Those Who Have High Visual-Spatial Intelligence:**

* Think in three-dimensions
* Excel at manipulating objects in his or her mind
* Like to make hypotheses
* Often enjoys drawing or art
* Like to build things
* Enjoy puzzles and mazes
* Judge distances well

***Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence Definition:***

Bodily-Kinesthetic intelligence, one of Gardner's Nine [Multiple Intelligences](http://712educators.about.com/od/multipleint/a/Multiple-Intelligences.htm), involves how well an individual controls their body in terms of physical activity and/or fine motor skills. Individuals who excel in this intelligence typically learn best by doing something as opposed to just reading about it. Dancers, gymnasts, and athletes are among those that Howard Gardner sees as having high kinesthetic intelligence. Those with bodily-kinesthetic intelligence often display excellent hand-eye coordination.

**Individuals Who Typically Have High Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence:**

* Athletes
* Dancers
* Gymnasts
* Surgeons
* Sculptors
* Carpenters

**Famous People Who Have High Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence:**

* LeBron James
* Michael Jackson
* Bryce Harper
* Rhonda Rousey
* Dr. Ben Carson
* Serena Williams

**Traits of Those Who Have High Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence:**

* Learn best by doing rather than reading or listening
* Have the ability to manipulate objects, using fine and gross motor skills
* Tend to use the entire body to express themselves
* Are generally good at physical activities
* Like to build things

***Musical-Rhythmic Intelligence Definition:***

Musical intelligence is one of Howard Gardner's Nine [Multiple Intelligences](http://712educators.about.com/od/multipleint/a/Multiple-Intelligences.htm). It involves how skillful an individual is performing, composing, and appreciating music and musical patterns. Individuals who excel in this intelligence typically are able to use rhythms and patterns to assist in learning. Musicians, composers, band directors, disc jockeys, and music critics are among those that Howard Gardner sees as having high musical intelligence.

**Individuals Who Typically Have High Musical-Rhythmic Intelligence:**

* Composers
* Musicians
* Band Directors
* Conductors
* Disc Jockeys
* Sound Board Operators
* Music Critics

**Famous People Who Have High Musical-Rhythmic Intelligence:**

* Beethoven
* Beyoncé
* Eminem
* Miles Davis

**Traits of Those Who Have High Musical-Rhythmic Intelligence:**

* Learn well using rhythm or music
* Enjoy listening to and/or creating music
* Can become emotionally moved by music
* Enjoy rhythmic poetry
* May study better with music in the background

***Interpersonal Intelligence Definition:***

Interpersonal intelligence is one of Howard Gardner's Nine [Multiple Intelligences](http://712educators.about.com/od/multipleint/a/Multiple-Intelligences.htm). It involves how skillful an individual is in understanding and dealing with others. Individuals who excel in this intelligence typically are able to discern moods, feelings, and motivations of others. Politicians, teachers, and counselors are among those that Howard Gardner sees as having high interpersonal intelligence.

**Individuals Who Typically Have High Interpersonal Intelligence:**

* Politicians
* Teachers
* Counselors
* Social Workers
* Diplomats
* Coaches

**Famous People Who Have High Interpersonal Intelligence:**

* Mother Teresa
* Dr. Drew
* Dr. Phil
* Abraham Lincoln

**Traits of Those Who Have High Interpersonal Intelligence:**

* Enjoy socializing
* Likes to work in groups
* Extraverted
* Enjoy teaching others
* Able to sympathize with others

***Intrapersonal Intelligence Definition:***

Interpersonal intelligence is one of Howard Gardner's Nine [Multiple Intelligences](http://712educators.about.com/od/multipleint/a/Multiple-Intelligences.htm). It involves how skillful an individual is in understanding themselves. Individuals who excel in this intelligence typically are introspective and can use this knowledge to solve personal problems. Psychologists, writers, and poets are among those that Howard Gardner sees as having high intrapersonal intelligence. Another aspect of intrapersonal intelligence is the ability to stand firm behind one’s vision and goals and see them through. That’s why business owners are included in this category.

**Individuals Who Typically Have High Intrapersonal Intelligence:**

* Psychologists
* Poets
* Counselors
* Writers
* Therapists
* Entrepreneurs

**Famous People Who Have High Intrapersonal Intelligence:**

* Anne Frank
* Sigmund Freud
* Donald Trump
* Harriet Tubman

**Traits of Those Who Have High Intrapersonal Intelligence:**

* Self-Motivated
* Introverted
* Spend Time Alone
* Like to Work Independently
* Like to Write in a Journal
* Determined

***Naturalist Intelligence Definition:***

Naturalist intelligence is one of Howard Gardner's Nine [Multiple Intelligences](http://712educators.about.com/od/multipleint/a/Multiple-Intelligences.htm). It involves how sensitive an individual is towards nature and the world around them. Individuals who excel in this intelligence typically are interested in growing plants and/or taking care of animals. Zookeepers, gardeners, and veterinarians are among those that Howard Gardner sees as having high naturalist intelligence.

**Individuals Who Typically Have High Naturalist Intelligence:**

* Zookeepers
* Veterinarians
* Gardeners
* Marine Biologists
* Animal Trainers
* Farmers
* Conservationists

**Famous People Who Have High Naturalist Intelligence:**

* Jack Hanna
* Steve Irwin
* Charles Darwin
* Bear Grylls
* [Gregor Mendel](http://712educators.about.com/cs/biographies/p/mendel.htm)
* Jane Goodall

**Traits of Those Who Have High Naturalist Intelligence:**

* Interested in Conservation and Recycling
* Enjoy Gardening
* Like Animals
* Like to Be Outside
* Interested in the Weather
* Feel a Connection to the Earth

***Existential Intelligence Definition:***

Existential intelligence is one of Howard Gardner's Nine [Multiple Intelligences](http://712educators.about.com/od/multipleint/a/Multiple-Intelligences.htm). It involves an individual's ability to use collective values and intuition to understand others and the world around them. Individuals who excel in this intelligence typically are able to see the big picture and are intrigued by investigating life’s biggest questions. Philosophers, theologians, and life coaches are among those that Howard Gardner sees as having high existential intelligence.

**Individuals Who Typically Have High Existential Intelligence:**

* Philosophers
* Religious Figures
* Life Coaches
* Astrophysicists

**Famous People Who Have High Existential Intelligence:**

* Karl Marx
* Thomas Jefferson
* Jesus Christ
* Pope Francis
* Stephen Hawking

**Traits of Those Who Have High Existential Intelligence:**

* See the big picture
* Interested in questions about life, death, and beyond
* Able to look beyond the senses to explain phenomena
* Like to be outside
* Strong interest in society and those around them

***Multiple Intelligences: How Are You Smart?***

Before reading:

1. List 3-5 things you believe you’re good at.

2. List 3-5 things you enjoy doing. Your answers may be similar to those for question #1.

After reading:

3. Of the nine intelligences we read about, which do you feel are your three strongest? Explain why you feel these are your three highest intelligences. (4 sentences min.)

In preparation for the Multiple Intelligence Wordle:

1. Rank the Multiple Intelligences in the order in which you feel you possess them.

1st:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 6th:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2nd:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 7th:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3rd:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 8th:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4th:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 9th:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5th:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Write down four “-ing” verbs (ex: running) that describe you.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Write down four adjectives (describing words) that describe you.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Write down four nouns (people/places/things/ideas) that are important to you.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Instructions for Multiple Intelligence Wordle

MS Word Doc:

1. Open up a MS Word document. Save it as “Wordle” under your student file.

2. Type your highest ranked multiple intelligence. Copy and paste it 10 times. For multiple intelligences 2nd-4th, copy and paste them 5 times. For multiple intelligences 5th-7th, copy and paste them 3 times. For multiple intelligences 8th and 9th, just type them once.

3. Copy and paste the two adjectives that describe you most 4 times. Copy and paste the other two adjectives twice.

4. Copy and paste the two “-ing” verbs that describe you most 4 times. Copy and paste the other two “-ing” verbs twice.

5. Copy and paste the two nouns that are most important to you 4 times. Copy and paste the other two nouns twice.

6. Copy and paste your name 3 times. Write it as one word with no spaces (Ex: SusieJones)

\*\*\*If one of your words is compound, either hyphenate it or write it without spaces (Ex: Rock-n-Roll, BigMacs).

7. Press save. Make sure it is under your student file.

8. Print a copy and turn it in. You’ll earn 15 points for following directions and proper spelling.

Wordle:

1. Open up MS Explorer (the Wordle website will not work with Google Chrome).

2. Open your Wordle MSWord doc.

3. Go to [www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net) and click “Create.”

4. Copy and paste the contents of your MS Word doc into the appropriate box. Press “Go.”

5. Use the “Font,” “Layout,” and “Color” options to format your wordle as you wish.

6. Save your wordle by pressing “Save as PNG.” Make sure it’s saving to your student file.

7. Mr. Martin will print your Wordle on a color printer. You’ll earn 10 points for following directions and formatting your project in an appealing manner.

1. Why would a surgeon need bodily-kinesthetic intelligence?

2. Which intelligence involves thinking about deep questions?

3. Which intelligence would an expert hunter exceed in?

4. How are interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligences different?

5. Which intelligence would a jazz trumpeter excel at?

6. A fashion designer would be high in which intelligence?

7. A scientist working on a cure for cancer would require which intelligences?

8. Someone who works best independently would probably excel at which intelligence?

9. Gabby Douglass, an Olympic gymnast, would be high in which intelligence?

10. William Shakespeare, considered the greatest writer of the English language, was high in which intelligence?

11. A religious figure or philosopher would be high in which intelligence?

***Multiple Intelligences Essay***

For this assignment, you will construct a five-paragraph essay briefly explaining Howard Gardner’s theory of multiple intelligences and describing three of your intelligences. Here’s the layout of the essay, along with corresponding rough draft and final copy point values.

1st Paragraph: Introduction

--Start with a hook that will interest the reader in your topic. You might begin with a question, throw out a startling statement, or provide an action start. (4 pts./8pts.)

--Briefly explain the idea behind the theory of multiple intelligences. (2pts./4pts.)

--End with a *preview sentence* that states which intelligences you’ll be discussing. (2pts./4pts.)

2nd Paragraph: A High Intelligence

--Provide a topic sentence that states which intelligence you’ll be discussing and that you possess this intelligence. (2pts./4pts.)

--You’ll need to give a short, general definition of the intelligence. (2pts./4pts.)

--Provide the reader with descriptive detail of at least two ways you exhibit (or have exhibited) this intelligence. (6pts./12pts.)

3rd Paragraph: A High Intelligence

--Provide a topic sentence that states which intelligence you’ll be discussing and that you possess this intelligence. (2pts./4pts.)

--You’ll need to give a short, general definition of the intelligence. (2pts./4pts.)

--Provide the reader with descriptive detail of at least two ways you exhibit (or have exhibited) this intelligence. (6pts./12pts.)

4th Paragraph: A High Intelligence or Your Lowest Intelligence

--Provide a topic sentence that states which intelligence you’ll be discussing and that you possess/don’t possess this intelligence. (2pts./4pts.)

--You’ll need to give a short, general definition of the intelligence. (2pts./4pts.)

--Provide the reader with descriptive detail of at least two ways you exhibit/don’t exhibit this intelligence. (6pts./12pts.)

5th Paragraph: Conclusion

--Start with a short review sentence covering the intelligences you’ve written about (2pts./4pts.)

--Provide a closing thought for the reader to make them think about multiple intelligences. Perhaps ask them a question, leave them with a quote, provide an action ending, or explain what you learned. (4pts./8pts.)

Rough Draft/Final Copy Rubric

--Introduction (8pts./16pts.)

--Body Paragraphs (30pts./60pts.)

--Conclusion (6pts./12pts.)

--Grammar/Punctuation/Spelling (6pts./12pts.)

--Length (-1 for every 20 words under 300/

-2 for every 20 words under 300)

Total (Rough Draft: 50/Final Copy: 100)

Sample Essay

***The Multiple Intelligences of Richard L. Martin***

*“How am I smart?” a man once asked / Does it mean an A+ in every class? /*

*Must I be an Einstein and solve each equation? / Perhaps there is more to this “smarts” situation*

When considering how “smart” one is, there’s more to consider than what grades a person earns. People can be smart in many ways. According to Howard Gardner’s *Theory of Multiple Intelligences*, there are actually nine different categories of smartness. In the poem above, I displayed two of my highest intelligences, linguistic (word smart) and musical-rhythmic (music smart). Everyone has their own unique combination of strong intelligences, and (as you will find out in the case of my “people smarts”) weak intelligences.

I believe my highest intelligence is linguistic intelligence. Linguistic intelligence refers to one’s ability to work with words. Linguistically intelligence people tend to be strong readers, writers, and speakers. I **love** to write, and (with much practice) have become pretty skillful at it. I’ve written sports articles for a newspaper, commercials for an advertising firm, and even had two articles published in academic journals. My favorite thing to write is poetry. When I work on a poem, I become entranced, searching obsessively for the perfect words and descriptions. Before I know it, hours have passed, though it seemed like I had only been tinkering around for minutes.

Another of my high intelligences is musical-rhythmic. Individuals with this intelligence enjoy performing or listening to music. They may also have a strong sense of rhyme and rhythm. I’m beginning to think I’m possessed by song. Everything just becomes a song to me. My one-year-old daughter is the chief witness to this insanity. I sing about everything we do. Last night, when we put on her shoes before a walk, I began singing a completely made-up song about shoes out of nowhere. I’ve developed an entire repertoire of goofy, off-the-cuff songs I sing to her about eating, bathing, diaper-changing, and nose-blowing. I think I’m just a natural song composer. I’ve even created my own collection of songs about the parts of speech and posted it on YouTube. My pronoun opera song is the most viewed, at over 3,000 hits.

Of course, a person can’t be highly intelligent in every area. One intelligence that tends to be a weakness of mine is interpersonal intelligence, or “people smarts.” Those high in interpersonal intelligence are skilled at talking to others and helping those in need. Outside of class, I am embarrassingly awkward in social situations. This is especially true when I am in a large group of people. I just clam up and don’t have anything to say. I rack my brain for things to talk about with others, but all I can come up with is “Hi.” For this reason, I tend to avoid large gatherings. In fact, once I ran away from a surprise birthday party that a few of my friends threw for me. However, for some reason, I have no problem talking in front of a class. Maybe that’s because I already have planned out what I am going to say?

In conclusion, I think Gardner’s *Theory of Multiple Intelligences* provides a very accurate way for us to think about intelligence. Too often, we think about intelligence in terms of school performance, but as this theory shows, there are so many other ways to display one’s intelligences. It’s wonderful to think how we each have our own distinctive combination of strong and weak intelligences. As explained, I’m especially linguistic and musical-rhythmic, but not all that interpersonal. This is what makes me who I am; it’s what makes me unique. So, what makes you unique? Using Gardner’s multiple intelligences, discover the answer to the question that began this essay: “How am I smart?”

***Multiple Intelligence Pie Chart Instructions***

1. Using a pencil, mark outside of the circle how much of the chart belongs to each intelligence. The intelligences you are highest in should be given more “pie slices.” The intelligences you are lower in should be given fewer “pie slices.” You must color at least 1 slice in for each intelligence.

2. Once you have determined how many pie slices should be given to each intelligence, color your pie chart appropriately.

* Musical-Rhythmic—Orange
* Linguistic—Pink
* Visual-Spatial—Purple
* Interpersonal—Dark Blue
* Intrapersonal—Yellow
* Bodily-kinesthetic—Red
* Naturalistic—Green
* Logical-Mathematic—Black
* Existential—Light Blue

3. Write your name clearly in the bottom rectangle. Then, fill in the rectangle with the color of your highest intelligence. If your highest intelligence is logical-mathematical, color the box lightly so that your name can still be seen.

4. Cut out your pie chart.

5. For 1 pt. extra credit, write on the chart what percentage of the pie chart is devoted to each intelligence.

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