

IDEAS 55

**International Online Teachers Society
Debate
Educational Materials For
Advance and Upper Intermediate
Students**



**International Online Teachers Society
Publishing Committee**



CONTENTS

THE 55th INTERNATIONAL ONLINE TEACHERS SOCIETY ESSAY CONTEST

PERSONALITY I LESSONS FROM TV AND THE LITTLE PRINCE I Kathlyn Q. Barrozo I	2
PERSONALITY I OF MARSHMALLOWS THAT DON'T GET EATEN I Kathlyn Q. Barrozo I	3
PERSONALITY I PERSONALITY EITHER LOSES OR LANDS THE JOB I Kathlyn Q. Barrozo I	4
PERSONALITY I A FAMILY DEFINED BY PERSONALITY I Kathlyn Q. Barrozo I	5
PERSONALITY I PLEASING PERSONALITY - AN ASSET I Marian Baltazar I	6
PERSONALITY I PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT I Marian Baltazar I	7



LESSONS FROM TV AND THE LITTLE PRINCE

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas
B.S. Medical Technology

I was watching an early morning show on TV about two weeks ago. Two of the hosts were discussing the aspects of personality and character in the choice of a partner. One interesting fact that distinguished the two was this: personality is what is perceived by the senses, such as the ability to sing, mental intelligence or how a person looks, while character is one is not so easily perceived, such as emotional maturity and one's perspectives on life. The discussion became more interesting because it focused on how the two aspects have been mistakenly perceived as being one and the same, when in fact they aren't.

Many people find partners because of personality, which is inborn, but few couples really end up making beautiful music together because of incompatible character (acquired).

We see many cases of annulled marriages here in our country because of psychological incapacity that afflicts both halves of a partnership. Sometimes, one partner is too immature while the other is too intelligent to be bothered by the inanities of that one partner's immaturity. I can certainly put myself dead center on how such partnerships fail. After all, you can be young only once, but you can be immature forever. Living with a partner who never seems to grow out of an "unripe" brain can prove to be both punishing and depressing. Imagine if someone too advanced in thought-years is paired with such individuals.

Personality is sometimes described as scintillating, brilliant and captivating. It can attract and enchant. But the enchantment will somehow fade into oblivion once the paint comes off. It is what is inside that matters, or, as the fox had said in the most translated and most widely-read French literary work, "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

(Antoine de Saint-Exupery,
http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/a/antoine_de_saintexupery.html#VucbWMu1EjJBuDX2.99)

The entire book itself is all about how the little prince learns about life and human nature at large. It makes for interesting reading for young people who are yet to discover their priorities in life. It explores the learning process that the prince and the Pilot (the Narrator) undergo in order to find peace in themselves. One can pick up numerous nuggets of wisdom from reading the whole book.

The Little Prince teaches us how personality can only be a teeny-tiny aspect of our entire self. It teaches us about friendship, perseverance, maturity, leadership, responsibility. These and many more make up both personality and character.

In our day-to-day existence, let us not forget the lessons that The Little Prince, as well as the TV program, teaches us. Let us live our lives fully, becoming fully mature individuals and great partners to those we care for the most.

QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What attracts you to a member of the opposite gender? What will make you want to maintain a lasting relationship with that person?
2. Is it easy to find all the qualities you want in one single person? Elaborate on your answer.
3. Why do personalities clash? Is there a solution to such a problem?
4. If you had to choose between someone with a wonderful personality but immature character and someone boring but definitely mature, which would you take and why?
5. Can a person develop a certain type of personality? What about character? Which of those two can be more difficult to eradicate?



OF MARSHMALLOWS THAT DON'T GET EATEN

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas
B.S. Medical Technology

Many years back, I read about what I have called the Marshmallow test. In more technical terms, the Marshmallow test is referred to as a deferred gratification test or the Stanford marshmallow experiment. The experiment is performed with children as test subjects. Each test subject was offered one marshmallow, with the assurance that those who did not eat that single marshmallow will be given a second one later on. Only a small number of those kids managed to defer their desire to eat the first marshmallow; many of the test subjects ate the first marshmallows immediately. Those who had deferred their gratification were proven later on to be more competent in adolescence, with great school exams performance and more mature development.

I had been impressed by that experiment, and have tried the same approach but in different forms on my own children. My kids are not perfect, but they have their moments.

For instance, when my eldest daughter had once asked for money to treat her friends to lunch on her birthday, I asked her to make a choice between that and hosting her closest chums to a four-course snack which I would prepare for them on the weekend. She chose the latter. It's only been four years since that had happened. She has shown signs of maturity in her college years, although I do not claim she has been superior in any way. She has somehow been more helpful and more caring towards her siblings despite the fact that her late father had made her live like a princess before he died. We still fight; in fact, like most mother-and-teenage-daughter relationships, we have a love-hate relationship. But she still manages to pull through when needed.

It can be difficult to curb children's personality quirks.

I have one daughter who, in similar fashion to me, gets rattled when there's so much to do at so little time. She loses her cool easily. But she's very responsible and never goes to bed without completing her studies, no matter how sleepy she is. So many times since she entered the 7th grade, I have seen her face down on the book she reads. When I try to wake her up, she would growl at me like a tiger, a rather still respectful growl that's a cross between "Don't bother me" and "I'm doing fine". Is that possible? In her case, yes!

All in all, our children's personality reflects what they have gotten from us: our behavior in life, our mental aptitude, and our skills. We can not totally change those without changing our kids in the process. It is therefore up to us to help them develop good character to help them survive as adults.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How would you teach your own child to develop good character?
2. Can you change you child's personality? How?
3. Why is personality an important aspect of life?
4. Can personality and character be learned in school? How?
5. What responsibility does a teacher have in forming her student's character?



PERSONALITY EITHER LOSES OR LANDS THE JOB

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas
B.S. Medical Technology

Most job interviews focus on several factors in considering suitable candidates for specific positions. Among them is personality, which is appraised by the interviewer as the entire process goes on. Candidates for a job always try to put their best foot forward during the interview process, knowing how vital this specific part of the job application is. They wouldn't want to have the door shut on their face just because of one lousy interview.

Many job interviewers look for telltale signs that show great candidates. These include: punctual appearance to an interview; neatness and good posture; direct, honest answers; intelligent use of language, without using slang or pause words; good posture; mental alertness; genuine interest in and determination for getting the job; and confidence. Interviews are as different as the interviewers and interviewees themselves, but the bottom line is: interviewers know what the company needs and it is all up to the candidate to show why he is perfect for the job.

It's always a tall order to do an interview with so many expectations, but candidates who are called to an interview should remember that they are given the chance to prove themselves. The call to interview shows that the company has seen something interesting in a candidate's résumé and wants a look-see. It's one foot inside the door that no job applicant would want to waste.

Personality is often seen during the interview process; it is the one factor that enables an interviewer to consider an applicant as a good fit for the vacancy. For candidates that have inherent personality flaws, there might not be too much hope. A glowing résumé might buoy them to an interview at the onset, but how they present themselves on interview day can spell either failure or success at bagging the job.

Many job applicants have to go through various stages of success and difficulties before they find the ideal job they seek. Sometimes, one might have all the qualifications and seem to be tailor-fit for a certain job, but for some inexplicable reason, fails to land the job. Stranger still are those who get a job without really expecting to.

What really matters in the long term is to find a career that suits one's qualifications, personality and personal goals in life. Do not be powered by false expectations and unrealistic goals. Most of all, show the interviewer that your personality perfectly suits the job you are being interviewed for. More importantly, decide on this long before you are called to an interview so you need not embellish things unnecessarily come crunch time. You wouldn't want to be stuck in a job that suffocates your real self now, would you?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Can you recall how you got your first job?
2. What specific aspects of your personality do you think have helped you in your present career?
3. Do you feel you are a perfect fit for the job you do? Why or why not?
4. If you were an interviewer for the job you currently hold, what specific characteristics would you look for in a suitable job candidate?
5. Why is good personality important? Can it help somebody keep a job? Why or why not?



A FAMILY DEFINED BY PERSONALITY

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas
B.S. Medical Technology

Homer Simpson of *The Simpsons* and Peter Griffin of *Family Guy* seem to have many things in common. Based on what I've seen so far, both characters have irreverent and boorish personalities that have necessitated that their respective wives and families have to forgive them countless times for slipping up. As hotheads, both tend to get mad too easily, losing their temper at the most unlikely times and slightest provocations. I have not completely embraced *Family Guy* until now, but have learned to love *The Simpsons* immensely. But one good thing about *Family Guy* is how its creator has been able to break through the silver screen via a foul-mouthed bear in the movie *Ted*.

But this is about *The Simpsons*, so there.

Bart Simpson has undoubtedly imbibed the boorish personality of his dad. He has no respect for authority, even calling his dad Homer. Although Sideshow Bob has attempted to do him in so many times, he still lives his life without regard for authority or good character. However, Bart can often take the bull by the horns and call a spade a spade. I admire that he is honest with his opinions, no matter how hurtful they may become. He is a playful chap whose pranks amuse as much as they often hurt.

Lisa Simpson is the young little girl whose genius is a great match for her brother's foolishness. The sensible, precocious little girl symbolizes idealism, goodness and honesty that are good to emulate for today's youth. A tree hugger, her mixture of tenderness and fierceness is often fascinating. I believe she is the saving grace for her family.

Marge Simpson is the devoted, unassuming wife and mother who dedicates her every waking moment to her unique family. Despite having put up with Homer's weird personality quirks for years, she has not ceased finding more ways to love him and their children. She is an image of unconditional wifely devotion and motherly love that envelop her entire family in the best and worst of times. Many real life women can learn from her wisdom in facing responsibilities.

Of course, Maggie Simpson is the forever-tripping, pacifier-sucking baby that has been considered a baby genius many times. Although she hasn't had a significant speaking part in the animated comedy till now, she has managed to show specific aspects of her personality. She can get excited, angry and frustrated at various times. She attempts to help her family, especially her dad, in several episodes. Generally, she lies in peaceful slumber or indulges in contented play.

As is apparent in the animated cartoon—and in real life—a family can be comprised of several types of personality that might clash at certain levels but still find resolution in the end. No matter how different family members inherently are, they should still find reason to love each other and try to stay together as one. Divergent personalities might be a uniting factor for stronger families.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Do you think family members should always have similar personalities to become stronger? Why or why not?
2. Describe each member of your family briefly. Focus on their personalities and what makes each one special in their own way. Would you change any one in any way?
3. How can divergent personalities make a family stronger?
4. Why do you think *The Simpsons* has been widely-accepted the world over?
5. If you could create your ideal family, what specific personality traits would you prefer to have in each member?



PLEASING PERSONALITY - AN ASSET

Marian Baltazar
Class of 1980, University of the Philippines College of Manila
AB Political Science

A pleasing personality is always an asset. This only means that when we talk of personality, we refer to the qualities and traits that make someone interesting and popular. These qualities are what form an individual's character. It is also tantamount to that invisible aspect of a person's inner character which impresses other people. Almost always a person with a pleasing personality ends up having an edge compared to people who are bad-tempered and ill-mannered.

Having a pleasing personality is not only an asset it can also be a master key to success. It is a trait that distinguishes us from other people. Every trait that we possess determines our personality and is definitely under our control. This only means that we can improve every inch of our said personality to make it pleasing and to make it to whatever we would want it to be. When we interact with other people, it would be for our best interest if we display and portray a pleasing personality, regardless if it takes a lot of will power and concentration to do so.

Apparently, pleasing personality tops the list of assets which can truly make a person rich. In gearing towards success, it would also be vital if you will train your mind to think in a positive way, and always be that vibrant and enthusiastic person that you are. If in case other people would not like you, be extra sure that you can detect and correct as to why or for whatever reason do these people dislike you and not find you possessing a pleasing personality. We should be able to figure out whatever habits are holding us back and make that great move of taking that massive action of eradicating and eliminating these bad habits. In the long run, this will enable us to have a massive advantage in both our career and personal life too.

Undeniably, it takes a lot of will power and concentration for us to portray a pleasing personality when we interact with others but these are all for the best of our interests. Bear in mind that having a pleasing personality doesn't just end and is limited in our appearance and it's not even being confined alone with the clothes that we wear. It deals more with the correct personality traits that one has or is able to acquire. As a whole, personality is the totality of an individual's characteristics, not only physically but mentally, emotionally and socially. In general, having a pleasing personality refers to how good you converse and communicate with other people, how you socialize and interact with them and how likeable are you. Give yourself that chance to reap greater benefits when you have what it takes, a pleasing personality that proves to be an asset to every individual.

Questions for discussion:

1. Do you think you possess a pleasing personality? Why or why not?
2. How could you acquire a pleasing personality? Explain your answer.
3. Would you go out of your way just to have a pleasing personality? Justify your answer.
4. What are the factors to be considered to acquire a pleasing personality?
5. Do you agree that having a pleasing personality is on top of all assets? Explain your answer.



PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

Marian Baltazar
Class of 1980, University of the Philippines College of Manila
AB Political Science

Personality development is a very important stage in every individual's life. Since we were a child, we inherit many personality traits from our parents. Consequently, every person has his basic formation of personality from the beginning period of his childhood and onwards until we become a fully grown adult and a matured individual. Our experiences then in our family and society are very crucial for the simple reason that these are how our personality would be shaped and adapted. Living in a society means interacting not only to the environment but to the people around us as well.

As we educate ourselves, our friends, teachers and the environment of our school will have and create either a positive or negative impact on us. When rearing a child, adults should be extra careful in doing so for deep scars could be created in the psychology of a child which can imbue permanent marks. Thus, parents should relate positive thinking, helping the child to acquire good training and learn communication skills including different subjects from A-Z. It also goes that training in personality development enhances the general characteristics as well as the unique traits (these differentiates us from others) of an individual. Knowing that personality means the characteristics and appearance of a person, it is very important that a person should be able to develop a positive thought pattern, gain confidence, improve behavior, assimilate better communication and develop a healthy physique.

With modern technology and computer age, time has changed and competition is tougher than ever. A person has to work his way up to progress and climb the stairs of a brilliant career. The person with a good personality can work out difficulties with confidence in a facile manner. When a person has a good personality, it creates a lasting impression on others. To be able to have that impact, a person's inner and outer personality has to be strengthened.

Personality development, per se, is an improvement in all spheres of an individual's life, whether an individual is in the office, with friends or in any other environment for that matter. Let us not develop our personality according to the expectation of others for our unique traits to shine. We should instead break that barrier and stand out with our originality and uniqueness for us to transform our ordinary personality into an impressive one. Let us also improve our attitudes and all aspects of our being in such ways that can relate to one's success and accomplishments in life. It is not really close to impossible for a person to have a personality transformation.

Nowadays, there are a lot of know-how's and simple methods as to how we can develop that winning personality, have a transformed one and inevitably change our future. After all it's not really that hard and impossible if only we try hard enough. Brace ourselves up, develop our personality to the fullest and tread the path to personality development.

Questions for discussion:

1. How can one acquire a unique personality trait? Explain it.
2. What are the ways on how an individual can acquire personality development?
3. Are you willing to go out of your way just to develop your personality to the fullest? How?
4. Is it impossible to harness one's personality? Why or why not?
5. How can you personality development enhance our whole being? Justify your answer.



International Online Teachers Society(IOTS) is an independent non profit international organization committed to improving the state of online and offline education in the world by engaging all kinds of language teachers with fluent English speaking skill in the world to shape global, regional and education agendas.
www.iotsonline.com