

A FIRO*-BASED INSTRUMENT

INTERPRETIVE REPORT[™]

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SAMPLE REPORT

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Overview

In 1958 Will Schutz, Ph.D., introduced the world to a theory of interpersonal relations called FIRO® (Fundamental Interpersonal Relations Orientation). The theory presented three dimensions of interpersonal relations posited to be necessary and sufficient to explain most human interaction. On the behavioral level, these dimensions were called Inclusion, Control and Affection. Dr. Schutz created an instrument, FIRO-B®, consisting of scales that measure the behavioral aspects of the three dimensions. Over the years Schutz has expanded FIRO theory and developed additional instruments for measuring the new aspects of the theory. These instruments have been extensively revised and simplified since their introduction in 1984 (see Schutz, 1992).

The theory has been so extensively revised and strengthened and has generated so many new instruments and important improvements that at the suggestion of the publisher, Jack Black, the set of measures was renamed. Since 1984 it has been known as ELEMENTS of AWARENESS and the individual measures known as Element B: Behavior, Element F: Feelings, and so on (see Schutz, 1984 and 1992).

Element B

Element B provides feedback on eighteen different aspects of interpersonal behavior. It is based on Inclusion, Control and Openness (the concept that replaced Affection; see Schutz, 1992 for explanation).

Inclusion. Inclusion has to do with IN and OUT.

Inclusion is the area concerned with achieving the desired amount of contact with people. Sometimes people like a great deal of inclusion; they are outgoing, they enjoy doing things with a group and they tend to start conversations with strangers. At other times, people prefer to spend time alone. They are reserved, they seldom start conversations and they avoid parties. People differ as to how much they want to be with others and how much they prefer to be alone.

Control. Control has to do with TOP and BOTTOM.

Control is the area concerned with achieving the desired amount of control over people. Some people are more comfortable when they are in charge of people. They like to be the boss, to give orders and to make decisions for both themselves and others. At other times, they prefer to have no control over people and may, in fact, prefer to be controlled by others. They may even seek out situations in which others will clearly define their responsibilities for them. Everyone has some desire to control other people and some desire to be controlled. In other words, people vary in the amount they like to be on top and the amount they like to be on the bottom.

Openness. Openness has to do with OPEN and CLOSED.

The third area is concerned with achieving just the desired amount of openness. Some people enjoy relationships where they talk about their feelings and their innermost thoughts. They enjoy having one person or, at most, a few people in whom they confide. At other times, they prefer not to share their personal feelings with other people. They would like to keep things impersonal and businesslike, and they prefer to have acquaintances rather than close friends. Everyone has some desire for open relationships and some desire to keep their relationships more private. They differ in how much they like to be open and how much they like to be closed.

Initiate (Do) and Receive (Get). Element B provides data on your perception of your behavior toward people (Do) and your perception of other people's behavior toward you (Get).

See and Want. Element B provides data on how you perceive your behavior toward others and their behavior toward you (See). It also tells you how you want to behave toward others and how you want others to behave toward you (Want).

Differences. From the See and Want information, you can determine the difference scores between what you see and what you want. These may help you determine areas where you might want to make changes in your interpersonal behavior.

Scores as Stimulants for Exploration. Although the Element B provides scores on both the scales and the differences, it is important to remember that:

- The scores are not terminal; they can change.
- Most of the meaning of your scores comes from you, not from statistics.
- The scores are meant to be starting points for exploration and growth; they are not meant to be a set picture.

We have a tendency to label behaviors with judgments. This often leads people to be reluctant to explore themselves because they are afraid they will come across as something "bad." Behaviors just are. We are the ones who decide their values.

Feedback Matrix

Score Interpretation

The primary purpose of Element B is to provide information for expanding self-awareness. It is not intended to produce a typology that classifies you into one of many categories or types and then tells you about yourself by describing your type or style. Element B reflects how you are choosing to be right now. We believe it is more valuable to assume you have the capacity to change anything you do not like about your behavior, if you allow yourself to learn how.

The size of the score indicates the degree to which you agree with the name of the scale (all scale names are declarative sentences). For example, a score of seven on scale 12 ("I want to include people") means you see yourself as someone whose desire to include people is quite high. Your preference for a seven may be because you feel most content with that position on the scale, or it may be due to your fear of being at some other point on the scale, in which case you might feel anxious when left behind. Or you may have a little of both reasons. You are the one who can tell best, mainly by listening to your body.

To the degree that fear is determining your preference, you become rigidified at your chosen point. Because you fear going to other points on the scale, you tend to stay unmovable from your place of greatest comfort. It is this rigidity that leads to all kinds of difficulties with teamwork, decision making, conflict resolution and leadership (see Schutz, *The Human Element*).

A simple and effective way to expand your awareness is to note carefully how you react to your scores. Do they seem accurate? Way off? True, but "it all depends"? Make you angry? Disappointed that a trait you thought you had outgrown is still obvious? Pay particular attention to descriptions that seem not to fit at all. There is the possibility you are denying them (there is also the possibility they simply do not fit at all). Discussion about these reactions is highly recommended.

A large difference score between "What I see" and "What I want" indicates that you are dissatisfied with your behavior, it is not what you want it to be or you are progressing along a path and you are quite satisfied with your speed and progress. Your difference score could also be due to a combination of these reasons. You are in the best position to understand the dual interpretation of this difference. For richness of interpretation, this difference score between what you see and what you want will be called Dissatisfaction, with the understanding that it means simply the difference between what I see and what I want. How dissatisfied you actually are, you know best. The score is given in the far right hand column of the Element B Feedback Matrix below.

Remember, there are no good or bad scores. All points on all scales are appropriate in some situations. We have a tendency to label behaviors with judgments. This often leads people to be reluctant to explore themselves because they are afraid they will come across as something "bad." Behaviors just are. We are the ones who assign their values.

See					Want				Differences (See minus Want)
	Do I ir	I include people.		11	4	I want to include people.	12	8	-4
	Get Pe	People include me.		13	4	I want people to include me	. 14	9	-5
С	Do Io	I control people.			7	I want to control people.	22	8	-1
	Get Pe	Get People control me.			2	I want people to control me	. 24	1	1
0	Do la	Oo I am open with people.			1	I want to be open with people. 32 3			-2
	Get People are open with me.		33	7	I want people to be open with me. 9		9	-2	
Total (Do + Get)			Do (11+21+31)			Get (13+23+33)	Total Difference (Add Absolute Valu		
25			12		13	1		5	

Exploring the Element B Results

Element B provides eighteen sets of scores as part of the feedback. Anytime a questionnaire gives numerical feedback about our behavior, there is a natural curiosity about what the scores really mean. We often expect scores to have a specific meaning. Element B scores have at least two types of meanings. One is a generalized meaning based on large statistical samples. For example, people who have a Do + Get Score (Range: 0 to 54) of 40 or more are likely to expend a lot of energy on interpersonal relations. The report will provide ranges of scores and behaviors based on the sample. For a particular individual, however, the relationship between the scores and the behaviors might not hold true. The second perspective views the meaning of the scores as being in the individual. You might have a score of 40 and not expend much energy on interpersonal relations. To you, 40 might be a middle or low score. This is why the exploration of Element B results is so important. You are the one who chose the responses to the statements. You can best determine the meaning for you. Element B scores are designed to provide a point of departure for exploration and self-awareness. The scores are not "permanent" and do not prevent you from changing your interpersonal behavior.

25 Do + Get Score Range: 0 to 54; Average: 26

Your *Do + Get* Score indicates how much you say you interact with people. Your score is characteristic of someone who puts a moderate amount of effort into interpersonal relationships and spends time being around people and interacting with them.

15 Total Dissatisfaction Score

Your *Total Dissatisfaction* Score is the sum of the differences between What I See and What I Want on each dimension. Your score suggests that, overall, you are experiencing a lot of dissatisfaction in your interpersonal relationships.

12 Do Score Range: 0 to 27; Average: 13

The *Do* Score is an overall indicator of how much you say you include, control and are open with other people. Your score is characteristic of someone who puts a moderate amount of effort into including, controlling and being open with people and spends time initiating contact and interacting with them.

7 Do Dissatisfaction Range: 0 to 27; Average: 6

The difference between what you Do and what you Want to do in this area is Mid-range. Your score suggests that, overall, you are moderately dissatisfied in this area.

13 Get Score Range: 0 to 27; Average: 4

The *Get* Score indicates the degree to which you say people include, control and are open with you. Your score is in the Mid-range and suggests that you get a moderate degree of interaction from others in the form of inclusion, control and openness.

8 Get Dissatisfaction Range: 0 to 27; Average: 6

The difference between what you Get and what you Want in this area is Mid-range. Your score suggests that, overall, you are moderately dissatisfied in this area.

Range: 0 to 54; Average: 11

Inclusion Exploration

What I Do Toward Other People

This aspect of Inclusion refers to what you Do toward others to ensure that they receive attention and feel included. It is measured by the *I include people* scale. Some people expend a lot of effort making people feel included, while others may feel little obligation to do so. The complement to this aspect of Inclusion is how much you actually *want* to include people, and it is measured by the *I want to include people* scale. Some people find that they are including people to the extent they want to, while others may find they are including people more or less than they actually want to and, consequently, may be experiencing a feeling of dissatisfaction in this area.

- 4 I include People
 Your score on I include people falls in the
 Mid-range of the scale. People who receive
 scores in this range tend to be somewhat
 social and display a moderate amount of
 interpersonal behavior focused on including
 people. You may find that you are as
 comfortable with people as you are alone,
 and the amount of social interaction you
 prefer tends to vary. To explore the
 accuracy of your score, reflect on how many
 of the following statements may be
 characteristic of your general pattern of
 interpersonal behavior in the area of
 including people.
- 8 I want to include people Your score on I want to include people falls on the High end of the scale which suggests that including people is very important to you. People who fall on this end of the scale typically have a strong desire to engage in interpersonal behavior focused on including people. To explore the accuracy of your score, reflect on how well the following describe what you want to do in terms of including people.
- -4 Difference (See Want)
 This is the difference between how much *I* include people (Scale 11) and how much *I* want to include people (Scale 12). This difference suggests that you may be including people less than you want to. As a result, you may be experiencing dissatisfaction or tension in this area. To the degree that you are dissatisfied, you may find the following to be true for you.

1 . .

- Don't always make an effort to include people
- Involve others in what I am doing most of the time
- Limit the number of organizations I belong to
- Talk to people, but may not be perceived as "outgoing"
- Join some social organizations
- Have good social skills
- Have little concern over being rejected
- Vary as to how much I participate in group activities

I want to . .

- Make others feel included
- Involve others in what I am doing
- Recognize others for their achievements
- Be around other people
- Join social organizations
- Be outgoing
- Be expressive and enthusiastic
- Introduce people to each other
- Have many friends
- Actively participate in the environment
- Be in the middle of the action

I feel . .

- Drained at the end of the day
- A desire to include people more
- Hesitancy to include people
- A desire to interact with people more
- A desire to recognize people more
- Nervous
- Concerned that others might reject me

Key Words

- Initiating
- Social
- Talkative
- InclusiveParticipative
- Flexible
- Interactive
- Accepting
- Associative
- Selective

Inclusion Exploration

What I GET from Other People

This aspect of Inclusion refers to what you Get *from* other people in terms of attention and being included and is measured by the *People include me* scale. Some people experience a high level of inclusive behavior from people, while others may experience a low level of inclusion. The complement to this aspect of Inclusion is how much you actually *want* people to include you, and this is measured by the *I want people to include me* scale. Some people find that they are being included to the extent they want to be, while others may find they are being included more or less than they actually want to be and, consequently, may be experiencing a feeling of dissatisfaction in this area.

- 4 People include me
 Your score on *People include me* falls in the
 Mid-range of the scale. This suggests that
 other people expend a moderate amount of
 interpersonal behavior on *including* you in
 their activities. To find out how accurate this
 score may be, reflect on how many of the
 following statements may be characteristic of
 your general pattern of interpersonal
 behavior in the area of being included by
 others.
- 9 I want people to include me Your score on I want people to include me falls on the High end of the scale which suggests that being included by people is very important to you. People who fall on this end of the scale typically have a strong desire to be included by others. To explore the accuracy of your score, reflect on how well the following describe what you want people to do in terms of including you.
- -5 Difference (See Want) This is the difference between how much People include me (Scale 13) and how much I want people to include me (Scale 14). This difference suggests that you want to be included more than you currently are and, as a result, you may be experiencing dissatisfaction or tension in this area. To the degree that you are dissatisfied, you may find the following to be true for you.

People . . .

- Don't always make an effort to include me
- Involve me in what they are doing most of the time
- Ask me to join some social organizations
- Think I have good social skills
- Do not reject me often
- Vary how much they interact with me
- Usually invite me to participate in their activities

I want people to . . .

- Make me feel included
- Involve me in what they are doing
- Recognize me for my achievements
- Be around me
- Ask me to join social organizations
- Be outgoing with me
- Be expressive and enthusiastic with me
- Introduce me to others
- Be my friends
- Encourage me to actively participate in my environment
- Keep me in the middle of the action

I feel . .

- Tired at the end of the day
- A desire to be included more
- Left out
- Insignificant
- Unappreciated
- As if you are not fully "in" with others
- Frustrated
- Lonely

- Key Words
- Included
- Empathetic
- Social
- Talkative
- Participative
- Flexible
- Accepting

Control Exploration

What I Do Toward Other People

This aspect of Control refers to what you Do toward others in terms of the amount of control you exhibit over them and is measured by the I control people scale. Some people are more comfortable when they are in charge of people. They like to be the boss, to give orders and to make decisions for both themselves and others. To this end, they expend a lot of effort to be in charge while others may feel little obligation to do so. The complementary scale to this aspect of Control is how much you actually want to control people, and it is measured by the I want to control people scale. Some people find that they are controlling people to the extent they want to, while others may find they are controlling people more or less than they actually want to. Consequently, they may be experiencing a feeling of dissatisfaction in this

I control people Your score on *I control people* falls on the High end of the scale. People who fall on this end of the scale typically display a significant amount of interpersonal behavior focused on controlling people. To explore the accuracy of your score, reflect on how many of the following behaviors and characteristics describe your general pattern of interpersonal behavior in the area of controlling people.

I want to control people Your score on I want to control people falls on the High end of the scale which suggests that controlling people is very important to you. People who fall on this end of the scale typically have a strong desire to engage in interpersonal behavior focused on controlling people. To explore the accuracy of your score, reflect on how well the following describe what you want to do in terms of controlling people.

Difference (See - Want) This is the difference between how much I control people (Scale 21) and how much I want to control people (Scale 22). This difference suggests that you are experiencing a balance between how much you are controlling people and how much you want to control people. As a result, you may be satisfied in this area.

- Take charge whenever I can
- Create plans
- Organize and structure my environment
- Get people to do things my way
- Make decisions quickly
- Command respect for my authority
- Exhibit confidence and competence
- Challenge established practices
- Seek out difficult challenges
- Can do anything
- Am the dominant person when I am with people
- Take charge when I am with people

Key Words

- Questioning
- Critical
- Tough
- Fair
- Initiating
- Expressive Influential
- Leader
- Decision maker
- Competent
- Confrontive
- Determined

I want to . . .

- Be in charge when I am with people
- Plan and organize things
- Have people do things my way
- Be the decision maker
- · Be respected for my authority
- Be recognized for my competence
- Challenge the way things are currently done
- Do the "impossible"
- Have a position of responsibility
- Be the dominant person in the group
- Strongly influence other peoples' actions

I feel . . .

Satisfied

Control Exploration

What I Get from Other People

This aspect of Control refers to what you Get *from* others in terms of the amount of control they exhibit over you and is measured by the *People control me* scale. Some people experience a high level of control behavior from people while others may experience a low level of control. The complementary scale to this aspect of Control is how much you actually *want* others to control you, and it is measured by the *I want people to control me* scale. Some people find that they are controlled by people to the extent they want to be, while others may find they are controlled more or less by others than they actually want to be. Consequently, they may be experiencing a feeling of dissatisfaction in this area.

- 2 People control me
 Your score on *People control me* falls on the
 Low end of the scale. This suggests that
 other people expend little interpersonal
 behavior on *controlling* or trying to control
 you. To explore the accuracy of your score,
 reflect on how many of the following
 statements may be characteristic of your
 general pattern of interpersonal behavior in
 the area of being controlled by others.
- 1 I want people to control me Your score on I want people to control me falls on the Low end of the scale which suggests that you do not want to be controlled by people. People who fall on this end of the scale typically have a low desire to be controlled by others and, consequently, resist efforts by others to do so. To explore the accuracy of your score, reflect on how well the following describe what you want people to do in terms of controlling you.
- 1 Difference (See Want)
 This is the difference between how much
 People control me (Scale 23) and how much
 I want people to control me (Scale 24). This
 difference suggests that you are
 experiencing a balance between how much
 you want people to control you and how
 much people are controlling you and, as a
 result, you may be satisfied in this area.

People . . .

- Do not make decisions for me
- Do not tell me what to do
- Let me do what I want to do
- Do not see me as a team player
- Do not control my actions
- Do not influence me
- Do not ask me to do things for them very often
- Key Words
- Independent
- Resistant
- Questioning
- Inflexible
- Self-sufficient
- Aloof
- Autonomous
- I want people to . .
- Let me decide what I do when we are together
- Let me do it my way
- Avoid telling me what to do
- Give me autonomy
- Not expect to influence my ideas
- Respect my independence
- Respect my competence
- Let me take care of myself

I feel . . .

Satisfied

Openness Exploration

What I Do Toward Other People

This aspect of Openness refers to what you Do *toward* others in terms of sharing your feelings and innermost thoughts during your interactions and is measured by the *I am open with people* scale. Some people readily share their feelings and personal thoughts with people around them. Others only share with a select few and, even then, may not share everything. The complementary scale to this aspect of Openness is how much you actually *want* to be open with people which is measured by the *I want to be open with people* scale. Some people find that they are open with people to the extent they want to be, while others may find they are more or less open than they actually want to be and, consequently, may be experiencing a feeling of dissatisfaction in this area.

- 1 I am open with people Your score on *I am open with people* falls on the Low end of the scale. People who fall on this end of the scale typically display very little interpersonal behavior focused on being open with people. You may find that you prefer a significant amount of privacy. To explore the accuracy of your score, reflect on how many of the following behaviors and characteristics describe your general pattern of interpersonal behavior in the area of being open with people.
- 3 I want to be open with people Your score on *I want to be open with people* falls in the Mid-range of the scale. People who receive scores in this range tend to want to be somewhat open with people and display a moderate amount of interpersonal behavior focused on being open with people. To explore the accuracy of your score, reflect on how well the following statements describe what you *want* to do in terms of being open with people.
- -2 Difference (See Want)
 This is the difference between how much *I* am open with people (Scale 31) and how much *I* want to be open with people (Scale 32). This difference suggests that you are experiencing a balance between how much you are open with people and how much you want to be open with people. As a result, you may be satisfied in this area.

1...

- Am a very private person
- Share my feelings with very few people
- Tend to keep relationships businesslike
- Have few close friends
- Do not like to discuss my personal life with others
- Am more comfortable when people do not get too close
- Am uncomfortable with others' personal feelings
- Am slow to warm up to people
- Am uncomfortable meeting new people

I want to . .

- Share some personal things about myself
- Be less personal some of the time
- Have a few confidants
- Let some people get close
- Keep some secrets
- Have a small number of close friends
- Be selective about what I share with others
- Be businesslike some of the time

I feel . . .

Satisfied

Key Words

- Private
- Closed
- Secretive
- Contained
- Unemotional
- Distant
- Firm
- Tough
- Businesslike
- Detached

Openness Exploration

What I Get from Other People

This aspect of Openness refers to what you Get from others in terms of their sharing feelings and innermost thoughts with you in your interactions with them and is measured by the *People are open with me* scale. Some people readily share their feelings and personal thoughts with you. Others may not share anything. The complementary scale to this aspect of Openness is how much you actually want people to be open with you which is measured by the I want people to be open with me scale. Some people find that people are open with them to the extent they want them to be, while others may find people are more or less open than they actually want them to be and, consequently, may be experiencing a feeling of dissatisfaction in this area.

- People are open with me Your score on People are open with me falls on the High end of the scale. This suggests that other people expend a significant amount of interpersonal behavior on being open with you. To find out how accurate this score might be, reflect on how many of the following statements may be characteristic of other people's general pattern of interpersonal behavior in the area of being open with you.
- I want people to be open with me Your score on I want people to be open with me falls on the High end of the scale which suggests that having people be open with you is very important to you. People who fall on this end of the scale typically have a strong desire for people to be open with them. To explore the accuracy of your score, reflect on how well the following statements describe what you want in terms of people being open with you.
- Difference (See Want) This is the difference between how much People are open with me (Scale 33) and how much I want people to be open with me (Scale 34). This difference suggests that you are experiencing a balance between how much you want people to be open with you and how much people are being open with you and, as a result, you may be satisfied in this area.

People . . .

- Tell me about their private lives
- Are very open with me
- Share their personal feelings with me
- Try to form close relationships with me
- Are warm and friendly toward me
- Confide in me
- Think I am a good listener
- Do not keep secrets from me
- Shock me sometimes with what they tell me
- Talk to me a lot
- Trust me

Key Words

- Empathetic
- Compassionate
- Warm
- Friendly
- Caring
- Affirming
- Approachable
- Tender
- Embracing

- I want people to . . .
- Tell me their real feelings
- Tell me about their private lives
- Confide in me
- Be open and honest with me
- Be warm and friendly toward me
- Form close relationships with me
- Be open so I can understand them
- Let me connect with them
- Open up quickly
- Feel comfortable sharing with me
- Be genuine with me

I feel . . .

Satisfied

Team Atmosphere

What I prefer in a team

Research indicates that team members are happier and more effective on teams when there is high *team compatibility*. Compatibility is defined as the *ability to work well together to achieve a common goal. It does not imply liking or not liking, friendship or no friendship, agreement or disagreement. Those are factors independent of compatibility.* Element B scores on inclusion, control and openness provide a means for determining atmosphere compatibility. The term atmosphere refers to the working environment and approaches to decision making. Your compatibility scores indicate the type of team "atmosphere" in which you are likely to be most effective. The atmosphere is composed of shared behavior, beliefs, values and settings and may incorporate different levels and types of inclusion, control and openness. (For more extensive treatment of the FIRO approach to teamwork, see Schutz, 1994.)

25 Inclusion Alone (0) Together (36) Your score on *Inclusion atmosphere* falls on the High end of the scale (25-36) which suggests that you may prefer to work on a team that:

- Has a great deal of contact
- Works closely together
- Has a lot of interaction and communication
- Makes joint decisions
- Provides plenty of recognition
- Schedules many social activities
- Has easy access to leaders
- Welcomes new members quickly

18 Control Flow (0) Hierarchical (36) Your score on *Control atmosphere* falls in the Mid-range of the scale (13-24) and suggests that you may prefer to work on a team that:

- Offers a balance between structure and looseness
- Has basic team operating rules, but is still flexible
- Has a designated leader
- Has a leader who is willing to let others lead at appropriate times

20 Openness Businesslike (0) Personal (36)
Your score on *Openness atmosphere* falls in the Mid-range of the scale (13-24) and suggests that you may prefer to work on a team that:

- Allows some sharing of personal feelings
- Has a friendly attitude
- Has a moderate degree of openness
- Has few secrets



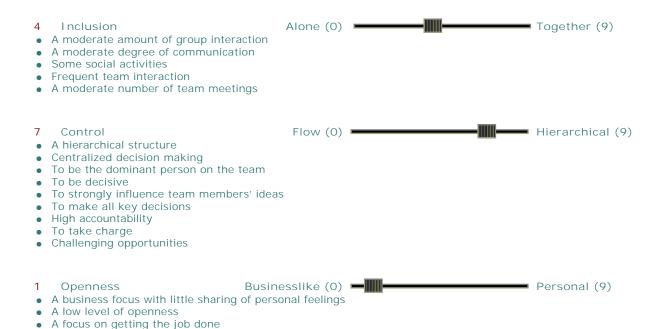
Research indicates that there is no one style or pattern of leadership behavior that is successful in all situations. Successful leaders seem to be people who:

- Know what it takes for the team to accomplish its goals
- See to it that the team works to the best of its abilities
- Select the best people to do each job
- See to it that people most affected by a decision participate in making it

To accomplish the above requires the leader to excel in at least three areas:

- Flexibility: the ability to flex on inclusion, control and openness
- Decisionmaking: adopting the appropriate decision making model and making timely decisions
- Self-Awareness: knowing how best to use myself and be aware of when I am feeling threatened, competitive, attracted, or experiencing other feelings that might distort my perceptions

What the leader does in the areas of inclusion, control and openness while in the leader position creates a perception by the team members of "how" the leader leads. Your Do score suggests a leader who might be perceived as wanting:



Resources

Recommended Readings

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Recommended Training

The Human Element Seminar (Business Consultants Network, Inc. – 800-462-5874) Element B Certification (Business Consultants Network, Inc. – 800-462-5874 or High Performing Systems, Inc. - 800-535-8445) Human Emergence (High Performing Systems, Inc. - 800-535-8445) TeamDynamics - includes Element B Certification (High Performing Systems, Inc. - 800-535-8445)

Recommended Websites

http://www.thehumanelement.com/ http://www.hpsys.com

> For more information contact: High Performing Systems, Inc. (706) 769-5836 ~ http://www.hpsys.com

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