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FYEX 100-33

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Introvert or Extrovert or Somewhere in Between?

Introverts and extroverts function in their daily lives very differently. Introverts are reserved and shy, while extroverts are outgoing and expressive. After completing the quiz, I conclude that I fit the characteristics of an introvert. Additionally, I feel as though introverts do have charisma which plays a large role in being a leader.

On the assigned quiz, I answered sixteen of twenty questions with “true.” According to Susan Cain, this means I am more introverted than extroverted. After reading an excerpt from Susan Cain’s book, *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can’t Stop Talking,* I discovered that I do have a large number of characteristics in common with introverts. For example, in high school, I was assigned several group projects, and I would always let someone else take control even though I had several ideas I thought would help make our project a success. I can admit that I am a control freak – that is why I prefer to work alone. Another example of being introverted is my resistance to social gatherings. I would much rather stay in my dorm room and watch a movie than head to a party with a big group of my peers. I feel similar to the way Don Chen in Cain’s book feels when he is torn between heading back to his apartment and going to lunch with his friends.

Introverts have the same potential as extroverts to be a leader. Cain writes about how both extroverts AND introverts are successful leaders. Extrovert leaders do better with passive workers, and introvert leaders do better with proactive workers. Introvert leaders are more open and receptive to trying other peoples’ ideas that might be more efficient. A leader is someone who guides and leads people. A leader is not someone who simply drags people behind them. This leads me to the idea of charisma and the role it plays in leadership. Personally, I believe being willing to let other people have the floor to present their ideas is far more charismatic than shutting everyone else’s ideas down. It takes a lot of character to be able to admit that your plan wasn’t the best plan. That’s what being a leader is. A leader has to have enough charisma to let other people voice their opinion in order to create the most effective plan or strategy. However, I do think extroverts are just as charismatic as introverts but in different situations.

I have labeled myself an introvert, but just because I am an introvert, doesn’t mean I can’t have charisma or be a leader. Charisma can mean many different things, but I think it means being open to all ideas that offer improvement. Being a leader means having charisma. Putting a label on someone doesn’t mean anything. An extrovert can have charisma and be a successful leader, but so can an introvert.