

Intellectual Humility

Before you complete the questionnaire that follows, give yourself a rating on humility generally and intellectual humility more specifically.

Questionnaire: a self-evaluation

1. I find it easy to admit that I might be wrong about my beliefs or worldview.
2. I feel strongly that my beliefs need to match a reality that lies outside of me and whatever I believe.
3. I recognize that I am very dependant on others in finding knowledge and truth.
4. I am not very worried about sometimes appearing to be rather stupid.
5. I am very open to having others criticize my beliefs.
6. I regularly listen carefully to others, trying to understand their position, trying to learn from them, even if they express positions very different from what I hold.
7. I don't feel obsessed about convincing others about my own convictions.
8. I usually express some caution when I am expressing viewpoints in fields that I know little about.
9. I don't belittle other's beliefs, even if I think they are mistaken.
10. I try very hard to avoid showing off my knowledge and wisdom.

Now give a numerical value to each of your answers – 1 for yes; ½ for unsure/maybe; 0 for no. Then total your numerical values. The total out of 10 gives the percentage grade for your having the intellectual virtue of “intellectual humility.”

Remember this questionnaire has been prepared by a philosopher and not a social scientist, so there is little scientific validity to the grade that you finally get! But the author hopes this exercise has helped you to think about how much you care about intellectual humility, and how much you try to avoid the vice of intellectual arrogance.