

A Preassessment of My Knowledge of Discernment of God's Will: A Personal Inventory

Complete the following survey as a preliminary means of gaining self-knowledge that you can use as a tool for discernment of God's will in your life.

A Personal Inventory for Discernment Rate each item on a scale of 0 to 5, with 5 representing your greatest likes.	
I like (reading and /or studying) . . .	Identify more specific likes below.
reading poetry <hr/> 0 1 2 3 4 5 -----	
reading novels (serious or for fun) <hr/> 0 1 2 3 4 5 -----	
reading biographies <hr/> 0 1 2 3 4 5 -----	
reading history <hr/> 0 1 2 3 4 5 -----	
reading about sports or games <hr/> 0 1 2 3 4 5 -----	
reading national or world news <hr/> 0 1 2 3 4 5 -----	
reading scientific articles or texts <hr/> 0 1 2 3 4 5 -----	
reading theological or spiritual books / articles (including the Bible) <hr/> 0 1 2 3 4 5 -----	
reading philosophy <hr/> 0 1 2 3 4 5 -----	



<p>reading popular magazines</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <hr/>	
<p>I like . . . (writing)</p>	<p>Identify specific writing formats below.</p>
<p>texting family or friends</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <hr/> <p>writing academic essays</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <hr/> <p>writing about my personal thoughts or experiences</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <hr/> <p>writing poetry or other literary writing</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <hr/> <p>writing for a school newspaper or other journalism project</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <hr/>	
<p>I like . . . (talking and / or listening)</p>	<p>Add more specific information below.</p>
<p>talking with friends</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <hr/> <p>expressing my ideas in class (or other academic setting)</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <hr/> <p>representing other peoples' ideas as an elected officer or official</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <hr/> <p>expressing religious or spiritual views</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <hr/> <p>expressing political views</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <hr/>	



<p>persuading others</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>-----</p> <p>listening to others' points of view</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>-----</p> <p>listening to a good lecture or class discussion</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>-----</p> <p>listening to a political debate</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>-----</p> <p>listening to a religious or spiritual speaker</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>-----</p> <p>listening attentively during Mass or another religious service</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>-----</p> <p>listening to respected authorities in their areas of expertise: history, science, literature, religion, sports, etc.</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>-----</p> <p>listening to personal criticism from respected authority or friends</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>-----</p>	
<p>Critical Thinking Skills: Read each statement and rate yourself on the scale, as above.</p>	<p>Write personal clarifying notes below.</p>
<p>I am able to separate my emotions from fact.</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>-----</p> <p>I have the will power to make myself look at all sides of an issue.</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>-----</p> <p>I seek correct information and truth even if it proves my preconceptions to be wrong.</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>-----</p> <p>I am able to defer to reputable authorities who know much more about a subject than I do.</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>-----</p>	



<p>I am able to listen to a person with whom I disagree without judging the character of that person.</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>-----</p> <p>I am motivated to do fair and accurate research when I hear information that simply does not "add up."</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>-----</p> <p>I transcend negative biases about potential sources of information in order to understand the truth.</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>-----</p> <p>I am open to God's presence in my life, and I believe that God will guide me in the right direction.</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5</p>	
--	--

List and briefly explain several of your most important gifts and talents, and several areas in your life in which you need personal growth.

Describe some of the best role models you have, and explain why you admire them.



How strong is my personal faith?

0 1 2 3 4 5

How strong is my connection to a faith community (my Catholic parish or other community)?

0 1 2 3 4 5

Take time to reflect on whether you are willing to allow God to work through you to transform the world to reflect his Kingdom in Heaven. If your answer is “Yes, Lord”—even if that answer is somewhat tepid—you are in a good place to begin a process of discernment. If you feel a great deal of doubt, you owe yourself and your Creator the time and energy to continue seeking, at the very least.

