

Motivation Characteristics

The student demonstrates....

1. **the ability to concentrate intently on a topic for a long period of time** (not necessarily the topic you are on in class). The student is persistent, focused, BUT has trouble moving on to a new topic.
2. **behavior that requires little direction from teachers.** The student is a self-starter, leader, independent learner, and will find something to do when finished with an assignment, BUT may be off topic, stubborn, may rush into an assignment without directions from the teacher (sometimes misses needed instructions), and may distract others who are still working.
3. **sustained interest in certain topics or problems.** The student digs deeper, is more thorough, is passionate, does independent research, BUT may neglect other subjects he's not as interested in, is often off topic, may read under the desk, and has trouble moving on to other topics/tasks, as well as finding closure to the topic of interest.
4. **tenacity for finding information on topics of interest** (again, not necessarily to topic you are discussing in class). The student is dedicated, focused, brings new materials and ideas to class, BUT can get easily lost in what he's doing, and may focus on the wrong topic.
5. **persistent work on tasks even when setbacks occur.** The student demonstrates perseverance, is driven, BUT may be stubborn, and want to continue a task even after completion (even if late).
6. **a preference for situations in which he/she can take personal responsibility for the outcomes of his/her efforts.** The student likes independent study and independent work, BUT may be seen as bossy, doesn't work well in groups (doesn't like to share responsibilities), and only wants to work with certain kids.
7. **follow-through behavior when interested in a topic or problem.** The student demonstrates on task behavior when discussing topic(s) of interest, goes beyond the assignment, and completes assignment independently, BUT may not complete work if on topic of interest, won't move on when time is called, and may only follow through if interested.
8. **intense involvement in certain topics or problems** (of student's choice). The student may be seen as compassionate, and works above and beyond, BUT can have fixation on one topic (book or video game, for ex), and won't stop.
9. **a commitment to long term projects when interested in a topic** (this could be a hobby). The student creates/presents quality work, work is more thorough, and is interested and dedicated to the project, BUT never wants to finish and turn in the project (never good enough), gets stuck on the topic of interest, and sometimes wants to stay on the same topic over and over.
10. **persistence when pursuing goals.** The student doesn't let set-backs deter them, is motivated to compete tasks, does quality work, likes timelines and may be a scheduler, BUT may not be willing to move on, goals may not be related to content, and may want to turn in work early.
11. **little need for external motivation to follow through in work that is initially exciting.** The student writes a 10 page paper for a 1 page assignment, does very elaborate projects, and works well independently, BUT student may start before told to (so missing instructions or go in the wrong direction), and may have trouble stopping.

Creativity Characteristics

The student demonstrates...

1. **imaginative thinking ability.** The student has a lot of interesting ideas that other students have not thought of, BUT student may daydream and be off-task (maybe reading fantasy novels).
2. **a sense of humor.** The student enjoys a more sophisticated humor, he may liven up the monotony of the classroom, and understands sarcasm and adult situation humor, BUT can be sarcastic and a “smart-aleck,” may laugh at inappropriate times, may make fun of others, and may be offensive.
3. **the ability to come up with unusual, unique, or clever responses.** The student has thought-provoking questions, makes interdisciplinary connections, finds new ways to do or explain things, may be familiar with political and worldly situations, raises his hand a lot, and take initiative, BUT can be attention seeking, may keep the class off-task, may be known as a “wise guy” in class, may be off topic, and responses may be inappropriate.
4. **an adventurous spirit or a willingness to take a risk.** The student volunteers first, has a positive attitude, is outspoken, is a leader, inventive, and has different methods/ideas to reach a goal/product, BUT may act out “what would happen if...” during class, can be careless, is not satisfied with class mundane class routines, can be the class clown, may be dangerous, wants to change the rules, and questions authority.
5. **the ability to generate a large number of ideas or solutions to problems or questions.** The student thinks “out of the box,” is great at brainstorming and adaptive thinking, gets other kids thinking, has creative thoughts, likes debates, and work/projects may be overdone, BUT the student may be off task, may dominate the discussions, can slow down the class (class cannot move on), and student always has something to say.
6. **a tendency to see humor in situations that may not appear to be humorous to others.** The student gets the teachers’ jokes, can make light (jokes) of a situation that is serious in nature, thinks out of the box, can break the ice and keep the class “alive,” tends to be mature and witty, BUT may laugh at inappropriate times, may hurt people’s feelings, be a class clown, and may be seen as an outcast (others wonder why he is even laughing).
7. **the ability to adapt, improve, or modify objects or ideas.** The student piggy-backs on the teacher’s or other students’ ideas, is inventive, and helps other kids problem solve, BUT student may be guilty of “creative plagiarism,” may be off task, and asks “yeah, but what if...?”
8. **intellectual playfulness, a willingness to fantasize and manipulate ideas.** The student likes creative storytelling, has imagination, thinks “outside the box,” asks “what if,” and understands play-on-words, BUT may ask off the wall questions on purpose, stories may be off topic, likes to joke, tends to day dream, and may keep teacher/students off task.
9. **a nonconforming attitude; does not fear being different.** The student can do creative tasks, thinks “outside the box,” will speak their opinions without fear of approval, wants to do their “own” choice for projects/assignments, is confident, and has interesting attire, BUT may have trouble with school dress code (ex: blue hair, Gothic and/or overly “weird” clothes), doesn’t always follow the rules, may offend others, may be overly confident, and prefer to work alone.