



Virtue and Character

Stephen Downes

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Ethics is in the first instance the study of virtue in a person, in a person's actions, or in a society. But what is a virtue? The SEP says, "A virtue is an excellent trait of character. It is a disposition, well entrenched in its possessor—something that, as we say, goes all the way down, unlike a habit such as being a tea-drinker—to notice, expect, value, feel, desire, choose, act, and react in certain characteristic ways." (SEP, 2017)

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-virtue/>

<https://medium.com/publishous/if-patience-is-a-virtue-what-is-tolerance-7fa385225046>

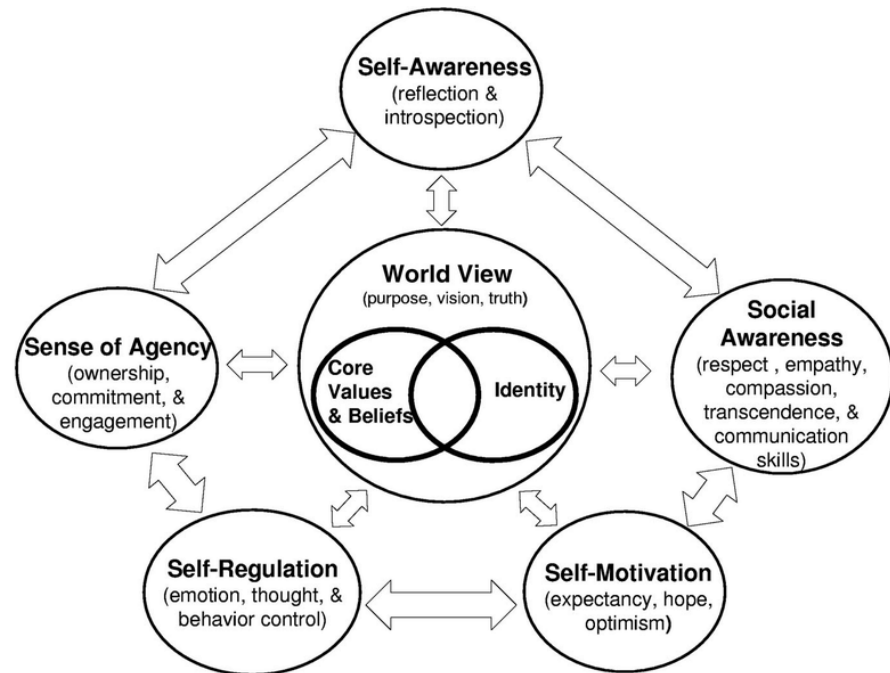


The Nature of Virtue

While we typically characterize virtue by means of various traits - honesty, frugality, piety, humility, caring, courage, generosity, moderation - the concept of virtue is not defined by those traits. It might be derived from some sense of ideals or perfection, as Plato might say, or it might be derived from the Greek notion of arete (ἀρετή) - “be all that you can be”.



The Achievement of Virtue



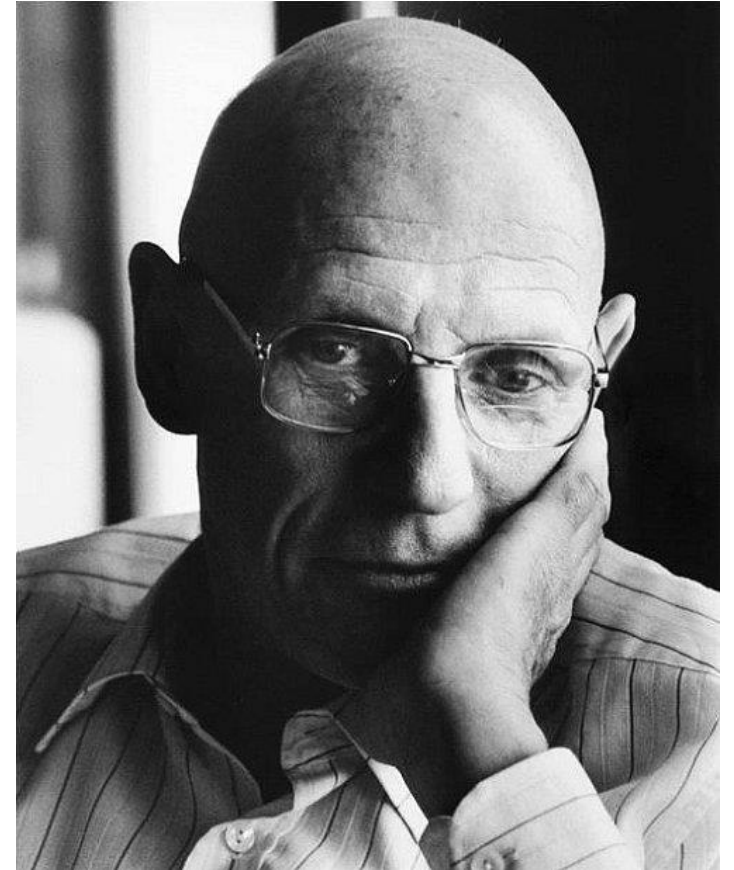
The achievement of virtue is essentially tied up with the development of character. As Aristotle says, the achievement of virtue might be a lifetime task. Virtue is the opposite of what might be termed the “weakness of the will” - our succumbing to the temptation to indulge, to become intemperate, dishonest, or violent.

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/254734223> Character development through spiritual leadership

Self-Formation

We see this perspective reflected in modern ethics by writers such as Michael Foucault (1985). In *The Use of Pleasure* he talks of morality as “self-formation as an ‘ethical subject,’ a process in which the individual delimits that part of himself that will form the object of his moral practice, defines his position relative to the precept he will follow, and decides on a certain mode of being that will serve as his moral goal.”

<https://iep.utm.edu/fouc-eth/>



Working On Myself

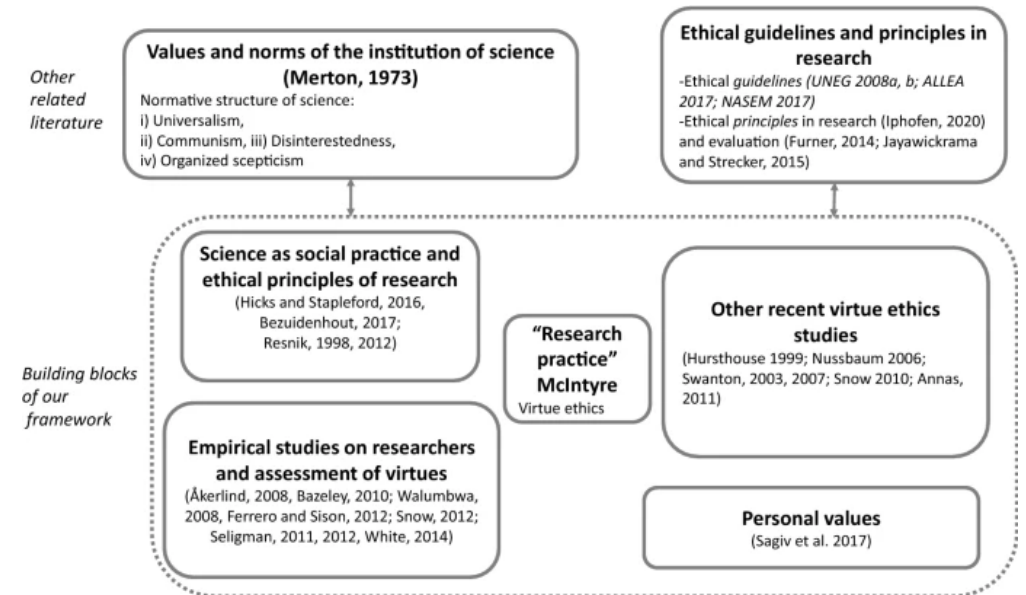


“If you are working on yourself, are you considering these points when you say ‘I am working on me’? Are you working on yourself? Or are you maintaining your happiness? Are you somewhere in the middle or you just do not know? It doesn’t matter where you are in your journey.”

Virtue as Normative

Virtue ethics teaches

- An action is only right if it is an action that a virtuous person would carry out in the same circumstances.
- A virtuous person is a person who acts virtuously
- A person acts virtuously if they "possess and live the virtues"
- A virtue is a moral characteristic that a person needs to live well.

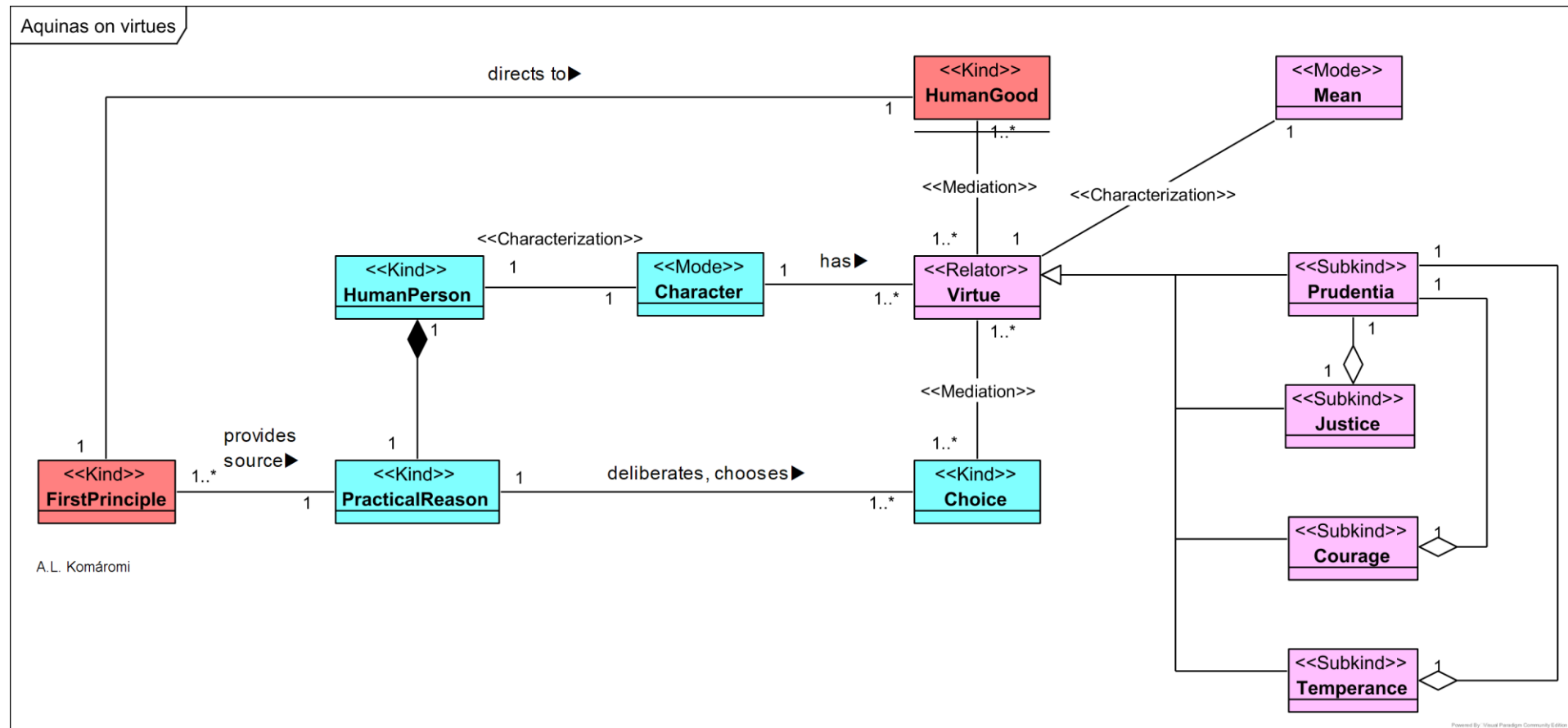


<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11192-020-03658-4>

Introduction to Virtue Ethics - BBC

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/virtue.shtml>

What Are The Virtues?



<https://philosophy-models.blog/2020/12/03/st-thomas-aquinas-on-virtues/>

The Cardinal Virtues

- The cardinal virtues are four virtues of mind and character in both classical philosophy and Christian theology.
 - Prudence (φρόνησις, phrónēsis; Latin: prudentia; also Wisdom, Sophia, sapientia)
 - Justice (δικαιοσύνη, dikaiosýnē; Latin: iustitia): also considered as fairness or righteousness
 - Fortitude (ἀνδρεία, andreía; Latin: fortitudo): also termed courage
 - Temperance (σωφροσύνη, sōphrosýnē; Latin: temperantia): also known as restraint, the practice of self-control

The Moral Virtues

Vice (Deficiency)	Virtue (Mean)	Vice (Excess)
Cowardly	Brave	Rash
Addictive	Temperate	Ascetic
Stingy	Generous	Extravagant
Self-deprecating	Truthful	Boastful
Boorish	Witty	Buffoonish
Quarrelsome	Friendly	Bootlicking
Melancholy	Spirited	Boisterous
Depraved	Conscientious	Deferential
Envious	Indignant	Retributive
Mean	Benevolent	Self-sacrificing
Lazy	Industrious	Single-minded

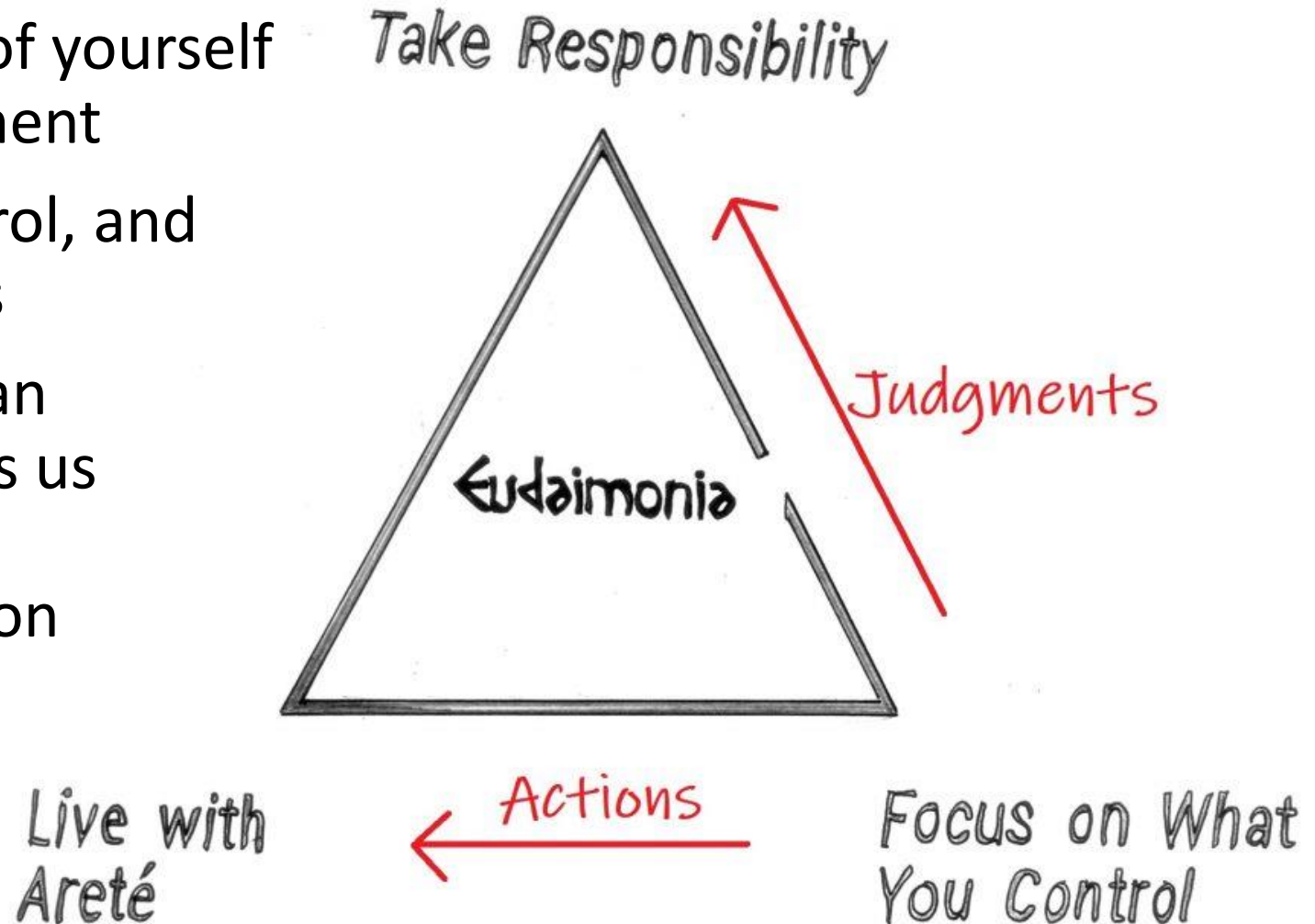
The ideal lies between deficiency and excess

<https://kevinhabits.com/aristotles-12-virtues-from-courage-to-magnificence-patience-to-wit/>

Stoicism

- Express the highest version of yourself moment to moment to moment
- Focus on the things we control, and accept the rest as it happens
- Take responsibility - it's not an external situation that makes us happy or miserable, but our interpretation of that situation

https://www.reddit.com/r/Stoicism/comments/bq1njj/easy_way_to_explain_stoicism_the_stoic_happiness/



Confucianism

Within Confucianism there are five constant virtues or wu chang (五常):

- benevolence or ren (仁)
- righteousness or yi (义)
- propriety or li (理)
- wisdom or zhi (智)
- fidelity or xin (信).



Taoism



“Daoist sagehood, however, is internal (neisheng), although it can become manifest in an external royalty (waiwang) that brings the world back to the Way by means of quietism: variously called “non-intervention” (wuwei), “inner cultivation” (neiye), or “art of the heart and mind” (xinshu).”

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Daoism/Concepts-of-human-being-and-society>

Bushido

義

GI

Integrity

Be acutely honest throughout your dealings with all people. Believe in justice, not from other people, but from yourself. To the true warrior, all points of view are deeply considered regarding honesty, justice and integrity.



Warriors make a full commitment to their decisions.

礼

REI

Respect

True warriors have no reason to be cruel. They do not need to prove their strength. Warriors are courteous even to their enemies. Warriors are not only respected for their strength in battle, but also by their dealings with others.



The true strength of a warrior becomes apparent during difficult times.

勇

YU

Heroic Courage

Hiding like a turtle in a shell is not living at all. A true warrior must have heroic courage. It is absolutely risky. It is living life completely, fully, and wonderfully.



Heroic courage is not blind. It is intelligent and strong.

名誉

MEIYO

Honor

Warriors have only one judge of honor and character, and this is themselves. Decisions they make and how these decisions are carried out is a reflection of whom they truly are.



You cannot hide from yourself.

仁

JIN

Compassion

Through intense training and hard work the true warrior becomes quick and strong. They are not as most people. They develop a power that must be used for good. They have compassion. They help their fellow man at every opportunity.



If an opportunity does not arise, they go out of their way to find one.

真

MAKOTO

Honesty and Sincerity

When warriors say that they will perform an action, it is as good as done. Nothing will stop them from completing what they say they will do. They do not have to "give their word." They do not have to "promise."



Speaking and doing are the same action.

忠義

CHU

Duty and Loyalty

Warriors are responsible for everything that they have done and everything that they have said, and all of the consequences that follow. They are immensely loyal to all of those in their care.



To everyone that they are responsible for, they remain fiercely true.

A Contemporary List

- Justice - requires us to treat all human beings equally and impartially.
- Fidelity - requires that we treat people closer to us with special care.
- Self-care - a unique responsibility to care for ourselves, affectively, mentally, physically, and spiritually.
- Prudence - we must always consider Justice, Fidelity and Self-care.

Moulin Rouge

- Truth
- Beauty
- Freedom
- Love

	Truth (0-0)	Beauty (0-1)	Freedom (1-0)	Love (1-1)
Truth (0-0)	Truth on truth. Absolute truth. You do not belong here.	Beauty on truth. Truth embellished. No different than lies.	Freedom on truth. Relativism. There is no truth here.	Love on truth. Love of truth. The philosopher's life.
Beauty (0-1)	Truth on beauty. Inner beauty. The superficial does not satisfy.	Beauty on beauty. The angel. No room for her on Earth.	Freedom on beauty. I know what I like. Beauty in the eye of the beholder.	Love on beauty. Vanity. No more beauty would satisfy.
Freedom (1-0)	Truth on freedom. Justice. The courage of our convictions.	Beauty on freedom. Sweet liberty. No responsibilities for a day.	Freedom on freedom. Anarchy. Chaos. The Bohemians know no rules.	Love on freedom. Hedonism. Love for all unrestrained.
Love (1-1)	Truth on love. True love. The one in your heart forever.	Beauty on love. Self sacrifice. The noble heart of the knight.	Freedom on love. Friendship. Acceptance and understanding.	Love on love. Self love. Love in excess negates itself.

All life is encompassed in
Truth, Beauty, Freedom and Love

To play this game of life,
Toss the coin four times

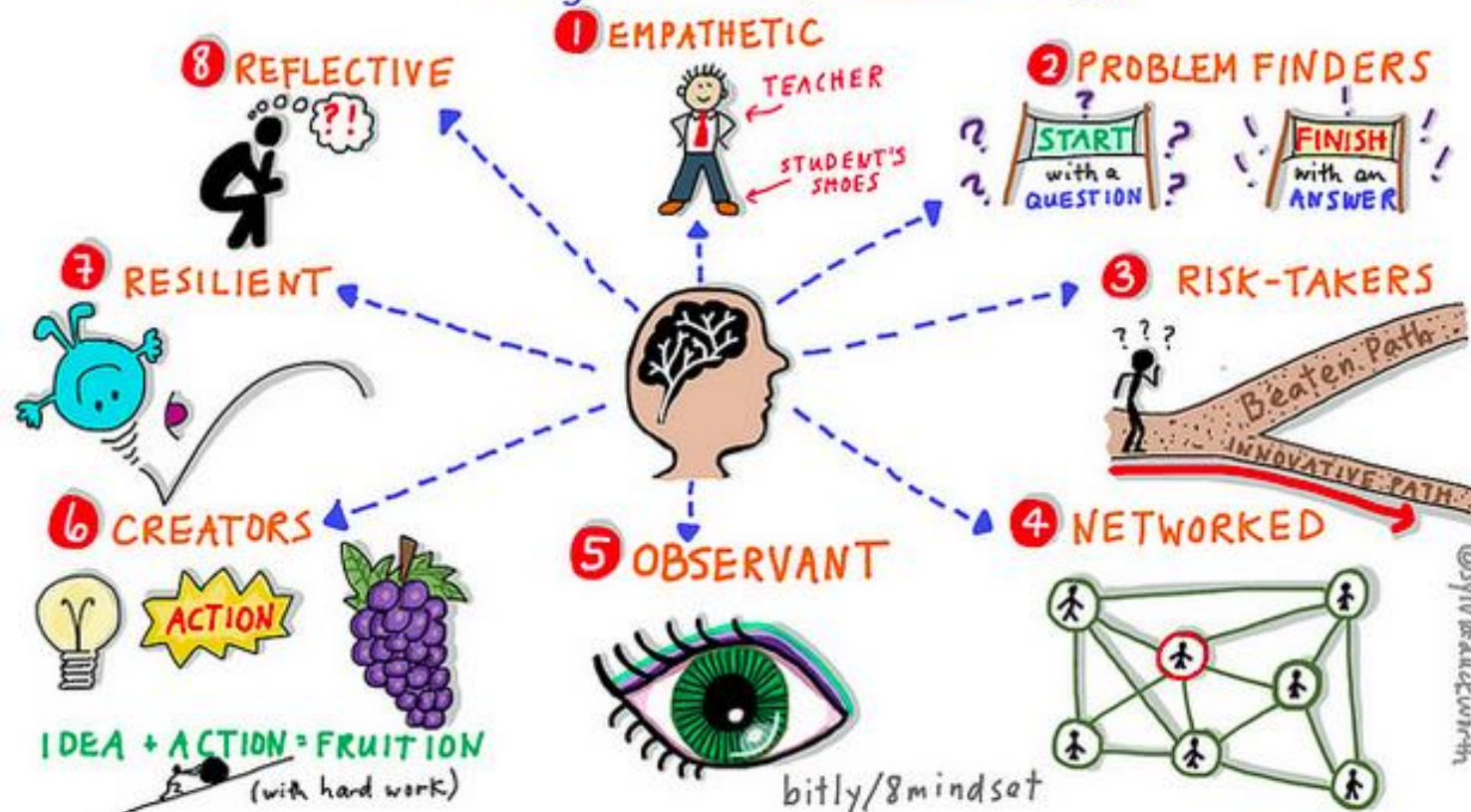
The first two coins are the left
The last two coins are the top

Character and Mindset

8 Characteristics of the Innovator's Mindset

By George Couros @gcouros

The innovator's mindset: The belief that abilities, intelligence and talents are DEVELOPED, leading to the creation of BETTER ideas. 💡



Modern adaptations of virtue theory

<https://georgecouros.ca/blog/archives/4783>

Man and Superman

- Nietzsche
 - Beyond Good and Evil
 - Man and Superman
- “The Man of Steel’s new motto — ‘Truth, Justice and a Better Tomorrow’ — is meant to inspire ‘people from around the world’”



<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/10/14/nietzsches-eternal-return>

<https://philpapers.org/browse/nietzsche-character-and-virtue-ethics>

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/entertainment-and-culture/2021/10/18/22732108/superman-slogan-american-way-new-truth-justice-better-tomorrow-dc-comics>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman>

Role Models

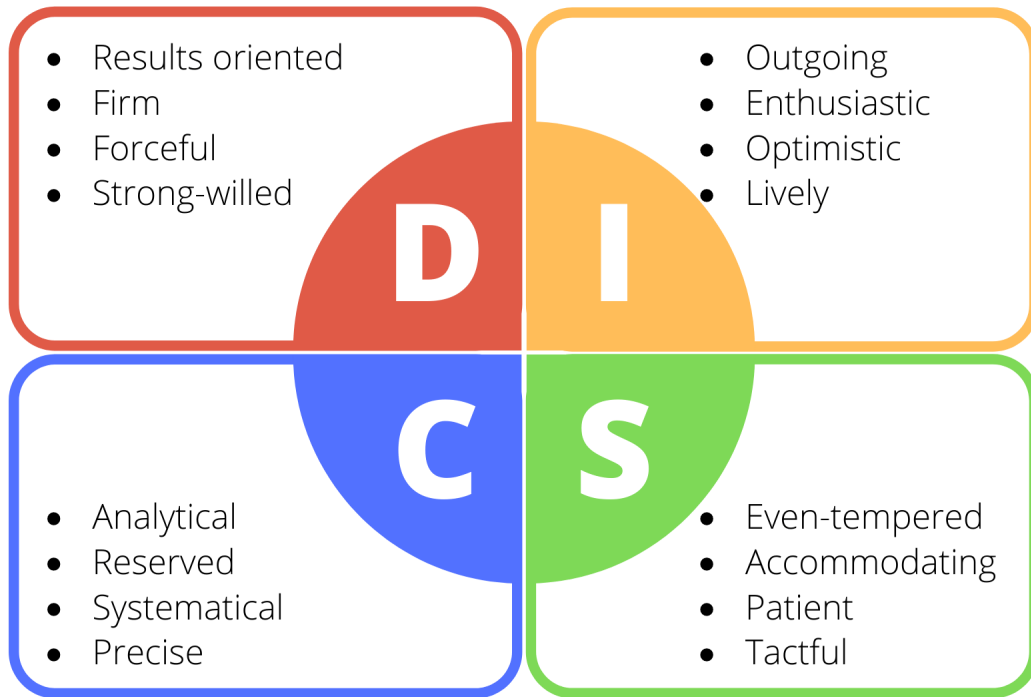
“A role model is a person whose behaviour, example, or success is or can be emulated by others, especially by younger people. The term role model is credited to sociologist Robert K. Merton, who hypothesized that individuals compare themselves with reference groups of people who occupy the social role to which the individual aspires, an example of which is the way young fans may idolize and imitate professional athletes or entertainment artists.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Role_model



<https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/08/opinions/aaron-rodgers-covid-accountability-obeidallah/index.html>

Personality Types



<https://speakoutinc.com/how-to-persuade-the-four-different-personality-types-in-your-business-and-nonprofit-life/>

https://www.reddit.com/r/mbti/comments/c2qu1b/virtue_vice_of_each_16_mbt_personality_type/

Type	Virtue	Vs.	Vice
INFP	Loyalty		Treachery
ENFP	Charity		Depravity
INTP	Attentiveness		Apathy
ENTP	Sincerity		Insincerity
INTJ	Trust		Paranoia
ENTJ	Altruism		Avarice
INFJ	Integrity		Corruption
ENFJ	Benevolence		Cruelty
ISFP	Diligence		Idleness
ESFP	Delayed Gratification		Instant Gratification
ISTP	Joy		Melancholy
ESTP	Chastity		Nymphomania
ISTJ	Objectivity		Triviality
ESTJ	Serenity		Chaos
ISFJ	Faith		Fear
ESFJ	Care-Giving		Care-Taking

“Conservatives who also scored low on conscientiousness engaged in such behavior to a greater extent—they were more likely than liberals or more conscientious conservatives to share misleading information, the research finds.”


<https://www.futurity.org/personality-type-fake-news-chaos-2653532-2/>

Mindsets

Your mindset is a set of beliefs that shape how you make sense of the world and yourself.

- Growth mindset
- Innovator's mindset
- Design mindset
- Grit, resilience

<https://lawbydesign.co/design-mindsets/>



BUILD TO THINK
once you start to try to create a rough version of your great idea, you think it through— & can test it out, too



CENTER YOUR WORK AROUND YOUR USERS
KNOW WHO YOU ARE WORKING FOR, & MAKE THEIR NEEDS AND GOALS YOUR LODESTAR FOR DECISION MAKING




SELECTIVELY PAUSE FEASIBILITY
think wildly about what might be possible, disregarding constraints + practicalities



EMBRACE CONSTRAINTS
Set limits on your time, & on your work targets, to come up with more grounded solutions more efficiently


DESIGN MINDSETS




TAKE A BEGINNER'S MINDSET
Be OPEN-MINDED, Naive, CURIOUS — QUESTION YOUR ASSUMPTIONS



BE VISUAL
get your ideas sketched out, to make them clearer, & engaging



WORK WITH INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMS
mixing diverse mindsets, ways of solving problems & skillsets



EVERYTHING IS A PROTOTYPE
BIAS Towards creating rough, NON-Precious versions of your CONCEPTS, THEN BE READY TO SCRAP & CHANGE THEM