The "Big 5" (OCEAN) Personality Traits in Practice
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Course: *MGT 360*
Title: *Management and Organizational Behavior* (3 units)

"The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances; if there is any reaction, both are transformed."
---*Carl Jung (1875-1961)*

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to help structure the discussion for the video clip from an episode of the TV series "Big Bang Theory" (second season, 2008-2009).

Scene setup

In this popular TV series, two nerdy, but affable friends ("Leonard" and "Sheldon") are roommates and share an apartment. Leonard (he wears black, horned-rimmed glasses) and Sheldon have two other friends ("Howard" and "Raj") who have similar personal characteristics. Raj is of Indian heritage. All of the four friends have advanced degrees and all work at a local university (patterned loosely after Pasadena's own CalTech). An attractive woman named "Penny" also lives in the apartment complex, across the hall from Leonard and Sheldon. Penny is an aspiring actress, and works as a restaurant server. Previously, Leonard and Penny have had a mutual attraction towards each other, but have not consummated their relationship.

In this episode, Leonard's out-of-town mother ("Beverly") comes to visit Leonard for a few days. She is a university professor with a Ph.D. in neuroscience. Over time, she interacts with all of the regular characters in the show in one or more ways.

Task

1. This handout contains one page for each of the "Big 5" dimensions that comprised the IPIP/NEO personality profile that you just completed.

2. As you watch the episode, try to identify one or more behaviors from a scene or situation that you feel illustrates one of the thirty facets of the "Big 5" dimensions. For each behavior, identify the character and mark either "high" or "low" on that particular dimension. If you can, try to note the scene/situation and action/dialogue of the behavior as well. You might want to refer to the printout of your completed personality profile as a reference for definitions of various facets.

(roll episode)…

Openness to Experience (distinguishes between creative and down-to-earth people)

Facet	Character	Scene/Situation	Action/Dialogue
Imagination			
Artistic Interests			
Emotionality			
Adventurousness			
Intellect			
Liberalism			

Conscientiousness (concerns how we control, regulate, and direct our impulses)

Facet	Character	Scene/Situation	Action/Dialogue
Self-Efficacy			
Orderliness			
Dutifulness			
Achievement-Striving			
Self-Discipline			
Cautiousness			

Extraversion (describes a person's pronounced engagement with the outside world)

Facet	Character	Scene/Situation	Action/Dialogue
Friendliness			
Gregariousness			
Assertiveness			
Activity-Level			
Excitement-Seeking			
Cheerfulness			

Agreeableness (reflects differences in people concerning cooperation/social harmony)

Facet	Character	Scene/Situation	Action/Dialogue
Trust			
Morality			
Altruism			
Cooperation			
Modesty			
Sympathy			

Neuroticism (the general tendency in a person to experience negative feelings)

Facet	Character	Scene/Situation	Action/Dialogue
Anxiety			
Anger			
Depression			
Self-Consciousness			
Immoderation			
Vulnerability			