

## **Sibling Position and Family Projection Process**

Adult Formation: In Relationship  
St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Barrington, IL  
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### **Activity I: Sibling Position**

After discussion the definition of Sibling Position, but before looking at the long list of characteristics, ask the group the following questions:

- What are the standard sibling positions?
- What are some key characteristics of each?

Invite the group to start creating a list of these characteristics, to be compared to the handout at the end of the brainstorming time.

### **Activity II: Family Projection Process**

This activity is designed to challenge your projections, stereotypes, and other assumptions about people.

Using the provided pictures, as the students to list out characteristics of each person. Characteristics can include

- Job/Career
- Education level
- Home life (married, divorced, single, with children, without children)
- Age, background, ethnic make-up
- Criminal record
- Or anything else that might stand out to you...

Next, pick one or two pictures and write out how each of these people and/or how society would act in the following situations.

1. Getting pulled over for speeding and/or at a routine traffic stop.
2. Being accused by a coworker for stealing. (Did this person eventually get fired?)
3. Asking for more money at work. (Think about how different work places might react differently)
4. Going through a divorce and dealing with child custody and custody payments.

## 12 Sibling Positions & Common Characteristics

1. Oldest brother of brothers
  - a. Assumes responsibility and authority easily
  - b. Nurtures and cares for the group
  - c. Expects loyalty and trust in return
  - d. Sensitive and shy around women  
Attracted to youngest sisters
  - e. Needs male friendships
  - f. A concerned father if not controlling
2. Oldest sister of sisters
  - a. Caretaker, order giver, likes to be in charge
  - b. Responsibility and power are more important than wealth and goods
  - c. Intimidating to men, finds it hard to give in
  - d. Children more important than her husband, may be overprotective and smothering to them
  - e. Women friends important
3. Oldest brother of sisters
  - a. Understands, appreciates, and works well with women; not motivated to leadership, male chauvinism, male clubs, materialism, or obsessive work
  - b. Sacrifices for the woman in his life
  - c. Concerned for his children but not overly so
  - d. Regards his wife as the most important person in the family
4. Oldest sister of brothers
  - a. Independent, strong, takes care of men
  - b. The men in her life are her main concern, does not compete with them, needs their companionship
  - c. Would rather possess men than material things but can administer possessions well
  - d. Loves caring for children, favors sons
  - e. Less interest in women friends
5. Youngest brother of brothers
  - a. Follows and leans on men
  - b. Not a natural leader
  - c. Interested in the quality of life and joys of the moment
  - d. Accomplishes distinction in scientific, technical, or artistic fields
  - e. Is soft, yielding, faithful, and unpredictable with women
  - f. Contact with males important
  - g. Relates more as a companion to his children
6. Youngest sister of sisters
  - a. Bubbly, impulsive, loving change and excitement, attractive, competing with other women
  - b. Works for recognition and praise and loves to excel
  - c. Suggestible, can take risks
  - d. Material things interest her
  - e. Attracts men but may compete with them
  - f. As a mother, may need help

7. Youngest brother of sisters
  - a. Attracts the services, solicitation, and care of women
  - b. Charms women but does not understand them
  - c. Valued and privileged in his original family and throughout life
  - d. Can assume leadership easily
  - e. Not keen for fatherhood but indulges his wife's wishes
  - f. Companion and adviser to his children
  - g. Not interested in male friends
8. Youngest sister of brothers
  - a. Attractive to men: feminine, friendly, sympathetic, sensitive, and tactful
  - b. Long lasting relationships with men come naturally
  - c. Motivated more by her man than by work or by wealth
  - d. Cared for by her husband
  - e. Loving mother but may be dependent or seductive
  - f. Women friends not interesting to her
9. Middle child
  - a. One role usually stronger but may have multiple roles
  - b. May feel neglected in the family
  - c. Possesses noticeable relationship skills, may be known as the peacemaker
10. Only child, male
  - a. Prefers the company of older people throughout life, wanting their support
  - b. Enjoys self-confidence and may rise to great heights
  - c. Enjoys attention, life, art, intellectual and cultural exchanges, being the focus of attention, but not materialism
  - d. Not motivated to fatherhood but may pamper and overprotect
  - e. Father figures more important than male friends
11. Only child, female
  - a. Structures her life around older people and patrons; motivated by their approval and preference, not by wealth
  - b. Overly close to mother; spoiled or egocentric with men
  - c. Good, faithful wife
  - d. Prefers being a child to having them
  - e. Individual women friends preferred to groups
12. Twins
  - a. Different from other positions in their closeness
  - b. One senior and in charge, the other dependent and impulsive
  - c. Hard to imagine life without the other
  - d. Relate to other siblings in the family as from those positions also