SHAPES ACTIVITY

Intro – General Assembly, Connie Podesta. Motivational speaker.

Think of a Shape, envision it.

Name cards and markers – draw the shape you picked and put it on the card in front of you. Take turns standing with your shape. Triangles, squares, circle, squiggles

**Squares** - the most left brained shape, most detailed, most structured, most organized, loyal, hard worker, feel most comfortable in a stable environment, clear directions, very conservative and likes things regular and orderly.

In other words – THEY **Do not** like change.

Cannot stand stuff like this – too touchy feely
List makers. And they CHECK OFF their daily tasks.

Also – truth be told – not really a good team player. *(all the circles will moan)*
Rather just get the work done. Prefer to work alone. Good at repetitious cumbersome work, even if it’s alone.

Can be stubborn, View fun as an unnecessary thing.
IF you work with a square OR live with a square - need fairly specific explanations, examples and instructions. They are not happy floating around and not knowing the direction they going. A Square will feel good about being presented with procedures and then carrying that through until it is done. Remember regularity is a comfort to them.

Your Motto – give me the job, I’ll do it myself and it will be done right.

Triangles - many of you were saying - hey wait I might be a square. You’re also left brained. You also are fairly well organized, detailed, you like structure – to the point of obsessive compulsive!

Perfectionist, Bottom line person – just cut the chase, get to the meat of it. Take charge, confident, very competitive, love to debate (your spouse would say Argue!)

You are goal oriented. You enjoy planning something out and then doing it. You get motivated by the accomplishment of finishing the goal. You tend to look at long-term issues – but you might forget some of the details

Can be - Impatient, outspoken, anal, ADD – 5 minute attention span, get bored easily.

IF you work with a triangle or live with a triangle – they need to see the goal and need to see accomplishments. They will always need to understand WHY! If there is a task at hand – something we need to do. The Triangle will appreciate specific targets and milestones and he will take great pleasure in checking them off. You should always be clear about the underlying intention of what you are doing or setting out to do. If the general direction is set the Triangle can be flexible in getting to the end result.

Motto – yeah, get to the point,

Circle – More Right brained. party people, socializers (squares and triangles call that wasting time) motivators, peacemakers,

No hard edges. Handle things by talking about them and work to smooth things out with everybody. Communication is always their first priority. Like harmony. When given a task they will talk about it.

My husband has come to learn that I “talk to think” where you Squares “think to talk”.

Laugh the most, but also are the most emotional. (cry over hallmark cards) Caregivers, fun-loving, worry too much, Wonderful sports and great fun!
Squares and triangles have found you and know they can dump work on you – cause you’ll do it! Couple of reasons
1. you feel guilty if you’re not doing something
2. you can -over commit – which leads to why you’re always tired. Which leads to your being a martyr. You try too hard to please everyone.

If you work or live with a circle – A circle does not need a plan or a system and frankly – might be turned off if you insist on one. Getting to a harmonious situation is more important than getting specific procedures and targets done perfectly. A circle will not just sit and listen to your story. They HAVE to add their part and see the matter from different angles to that they can get the sense of the whole thing. (back to talk to think) In dealing with a circle one has to be flexible and willing to discuss any aspect of the topic.

Your motto – I’ll do it.

Squiggles – Mostly right brained. Always thinking, idea people, (which drives the rest of us crazy) Yes you dance to your crazy little drummer. Off the wall. In fact you’ve always known you’re a bit different than the rest of us. You tackle the world head on. Most of you are pretty creative (your word our word would be CRAZY) . You feel best when you are doing something new and different. You get bored with regularity.

When given a task they will come up with new fresh and bright ideas. High energy, flexible and spontaneous,

Can be - easily distracted, don’t always follow through on the current project, leaving projects partly finished to get to the next idea! You might act or speak w/o thoroughly thinking it through first.

If you live or work with a Squiggle - A Squiggle must be presented with new and different things. Unexpected angles will motivate your Squiggle. The Squiggle is not interested in staying with the subject, but will contrast it with drastically different ideas. They like to explore many possibilities at the same time, and there must always be multiple choices available. If something needs done, it is perfectly fine if no kind of procedure or structure is recognized and every day is different. To deal well with a Squiggle you have to be flexible enough to jump around quite a bit and avoid preconceived ideas of where we will end up.

Your motto – OK what’s next!! Wait, I’ve got an idea!
How many related to the shape they picked??

Think of the Square and Triangle as convergent. They work TOWARDS something specific and finite. They approach it logically and systematically. But they might lack personal creativity.

The Circle and the Squiggle are divergent. They are creative, extroverted and intuitive. They reach out around them to new areas, new people, new ideas. But they are not particularly systematic about it or dependable.

Evaluating who you work with can be useful in evaluating people for job opportunities or finding out how well you work together as a team. Part of it is just the awareness of where someone is coming from.

Adjusting to the different personality types and being aware can strengthen a team. If you don’t think about this you will likely attract people like yourself and you could miss out on strengths that others bring to table. If you can value the differences then there is no limit to who you can deal with successfully.

No matter what your shape you have to agree there is value in this approach.