# Grade Your SG's EGO




## CONFIDENCE OR EGO?

Confidence is believing your Student Government can make a difference. Ego is believing you·re making a bigger difference than you really are.

Confidence pushes your SG to improve. Ego convinces you there·s nothing to improve.

The problem: most SGs operate in silos. They have no idea what other Student Governments are accomplishing. So they assume they·re among the best.
But they·re not even close.

## HOW TO TAKE THE TEST

Answer based on what your SG actually does, not what your constitution says.

A massive ego makes it hard to be honest. Try hard. Don·t give your SG credit for things it hasn·t done. The goal is to get better, not look better.

Take this quiz yourself, not as a group. Then compare results after.

**0 Never** **1 Rarely** **2 Sometimes** **3 Often** **4 Almost Always**

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

SG / Institution Name _____ Date _____

Your Name _____

Your Role _____

# 1. HOW GREAT DO WE THINK WE ARE?

Prestige, resources, and presumed excellence and superiority

### A. PRESTIGE BY ASSOCIATION

Our SG assumes we're way more effective or influential than SGs at smaller or less prestigious institutions.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### B. ASSUMED EXCELLENCE

Our SG considers its budget, membership size, institutional reputation, or established programs as proof that we're excellent.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### C. IMPORTANCE BY ELECTION

Our SG expects students and administrators to respect its positions and decisions because our members were elected.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### D. BLAMING THE STUDENTS

When students show little interest in our SG, we tend to blame student apathy instead of examining our own relevance or effectiveness.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### YOUR SECTION SCORE

A + B + C + D = _____ **/ 16**

Higher points indicate a larger organizational ego.

# 2. CAN ANYONE TEACH US ANYTHING?

Learning from other Student Governments

### A. THE PEER-SCHOOL BUBBLE

Our SG almost allows gets ideas from Student Governments at schools similar to ours in size, prestige, or athletic affiliation.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### B. WE'RE DIFFERENT

Our SG assumes our problems and circumstances are so unique that solutions developed at other institutions probably won't work for us.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### C. REINVENTING THE WHEEL

Our SG launches programs, initiatives, or reforms without first investigating what other Student Governments have already tried.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### D. NOT INVENTED HERE

Our SG is reluctant to adopt successful ideas from other institutions, particularly smaller or less prestigious schools.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### YOUR SECTION SCORE

A + B + C + D = _____ **/ 16**

Higher points indicate a larger organizational ego.

# 3. ARE WE AS POWERFUL AS WE THINK?

Access, authority, and actual influence

### A. ACCESS ISN'T INFLUENCE

Our SG describes meetings with senior administrators or appointments to campus committees as accomplishments without showing what actually happened after.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### B. THEY SHOULD LISTEN TO US

Our SG expects administrators to accept its recommendations primarily because we're the elected representatives of students.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### C. BIG TALK, LITTLE PROOF

Our SG claims credit for campus improvements without clearly demonstrating its role in achieving them.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### D. BUSY DOESN'T MEAN EFFECTIVE

Our SG judges its success by meetings held, resolutions or pieces of legislation passed, or activities organized rather than measurable improvements for students.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### YOUR SECTION SCORE

A + B + C + D = _____ **/ 16**

Higher points indicate a larger organizational ego.

# 4. SERVING STUDENTS OR PROMOTING OURSELVES?

Recognition, privileges, and self-promotion

### A. THE SOCIAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

Our SG's social media emphasizes officer recognition, titles, personal achievements, and photographs more than tangible benefits for students.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### B. THE PERKS OF OFFICE

Our SG expects special privileges, recognition, or treatment because of our elected positions.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### C. WHO GETS THE CREDIT?

Our SG gives itself or its officers more credit than other campus groups or individuals who contributed to an accomplishment.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### D. OFFICERS FIRST?

Our SG approves travel, meals, clothing, awards, or other officer benefits without clearly evaluating their value to students.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### YOUR SECTION SCORE

A + B + C + D = _____ **/ 16**

Higher points indicate a larger organizational ego.

# 5. CAN WE ADMIT WE·RE NOT THAT GOOD?

Criticism, complacency, and willingness to improve

### A. DON'T CRITICIZE US

When students criticize our SG, we spend more time defending ourselves than seriously considering their concerns.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### B. WE KNOW WHAT STUDENTS WANT

Our SG assumes it understands student needs without regularly gathering meaningful input from students outside the organization.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### C. WE'VE ALWAYS DONE IT THIS WAY

Our SG resists changing established practices, even when evidence suggests another approach could work better.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### D. GOOD ENOUGH IS GOOD ENOUGH

Our SG is satisfied with maintaining existing programs and operations instead of looking for ways to improve.

○ 0 Never ○ 1 Rarely ○ 2 Sometimes ○ 3 Often ○ 4 Almost Always

### YOUR SECTION SCORE

A + B + C + D = _____ **/ 16**

Higher points indicate a larger organizational ego.




# YOUR SG'S EGO SCORE

Your section totals and overall grade calculate automatically in Acrobat/Reader.

1. **How Great Do We Think We Are?** /16
2. **Can Anyone Teach Us Anything?** /16
3. **Are We as Powerful as We Think?** /16
4. **Serving Students or Promoting Ourselves?** /16
5. **Can We Admit We're Not That Good?** /16

## TOTAL EGO POINTS

/80

### GRADE RANGES

A 0-12 B 13-24 C 25-40 D 41-56 F 57-80

### YOUR TWO BIGGEST EGO PROBLEMS

## WHAT WILL YOUR SG DO DIFFERENTLY?

Two separate responses. Each box supports up to about 300 words when typed.

Lower scores are better. Be honest. The goal is to get better, not look better.