Name _____ Date _____

Period _____

Brain Dominance Activity

Introduction:

Both sides of the brain work together, however the left and right hemispheres of the brain process information differently. They also seem to have different functions. Most people tend to have a side that is dominant. This is similar to the hand you prefer to write with. While the left side of the brain processes written and verbal information, the right side of the brain is said to interpret information visually, emotionally, and in a more holistic manner. The right side of the brain focuses on the big picture, while the left brain focuses on the parts.

Your task:

Complete the "Think About It" survey. After completing the survey, use the "Think About It Key" to check whether your answers corresponded to the left side of the brain or the right side of the brain. In the last column, total the number of checks for left brain and right brain. The column with the most checks indicates that you are dominant on that side of your brain! After determining your individual results, we will analyze the class data to identify any patterns that might exist.

Think About It

NOVA Activity **Secrets of the Mind**

Circle the answer that best describes you. After you finish, check your results with the ***Think About It Key*** activity sheet.

1. Would you classify yourself as a good or poor speller?
   - good speller
   - poor speller
2. On a test or exam, which style of questions do you prefer to answer?
   - true/false, multiple choice, matching
   - essay, discussion
3. Is everything in your room neatly organized?
   - yes
   - no
4. When learning to play a new computer game, is it easier for you to:
   - watch a friend play and imitate your friend's actions?
   - carefully read the rules and follow the step-by-step instructions?
5. Would you rather plan out your schedule for the weekend, or just allow things to happen in a random manner?
   - make plans for the weekend
   - allow plans to evolve in a random manner
6. Are you usually punctual to class, school, and when turning in assignments?
   - yes
   - no
7. Would it be easier for you to write a news report about a sports star achieving a new record or to write a poem about your feelings about that achievement?
   - news report
   - poem
8. If you transferred to a new school, would it be more difficult to remember your new classmates' names or their faces?
   - names
   - faces
9. When given a choice of writing a report or drawing a poster about teen smoking, which might you choose?
   - write a report
   - draw a poster
10. When a guest speaker visits your school, are you more attentive to the logic of the speaker's words or the emotional impact of those words?
    - the meaning of the speaker's words
    - the emotional impact of the speaker's words
11. Would you find it easy or difficult to chat with a classmate without using your hands?
    - easy to chat without hand gestures
    - difficult to chat without hand gestures
12. Is your locker or book bag usually neat and organized or cluttered with old papers and assignments?
    - neat and organized
    - cluttered with old assignments
13. When you describe a movie that you've seen to a friend, do you give just the overall story or give lots of specific details about what happened?
    - overall story
    - many specific details
14. Do you do your best studying for an exam sitting erect in a chair or often walking around the room?
    - sitting erect in a chair
    - walking around the room
15. Do you prefer to study in an area with complete quiet or one with music or sounds in the background?
    - quiet area
    - background music or sounds

Think About It Key

h.i.e.r.o.g.l.y.p.h.i.c
n.e.a.n.d.e.r.th.a.l
m.e.th.u.s.e.l.a.h

NOVA Activity **Secrets of the Mind**

This survey demonstrates just one of the many aspects of the brain. Your brain is a complex organ; researchers are just now unraveling how it really works. Compare your answers to the information given below. Check off which part of the brain corresponds with your answer. Then tally how many of your answers might be considered right- or left-brained. A majority of the answers fitting one of the two categories indicates a tendency for brain dominance on that side. A similar number of answers in both categories shows a balance.

	Answer	Left Brain	Right Brain
1	• good speller—left brain • poor speller—right brain		
2	• true/false, multiple choice, matching—left brain • essay, discussion—right brain		
3	• yes—left brain • no—right brain		
4	• watch a friend play and imitate friend's actions—right brain • read the rules and follow the step-by-step instructions—left brain		
5	• make plans for the weekend—left brain • allow plans to evolve in a random manner—right brain		
6	• yes—left brain • no—right brain		
7	• news report—left brain • poem—right brain		
8	• names—left brain • faces—right brain		
9	• write a report—left brain • draw a poster—right brain		
10	• the meaning of the speaker's words—left brain • the emotions resulting from the speaker's words—right brain		
11	• easy to chat without hand gestures—left brain • difficult to chat without hand gestures—right brain		
12	• neat and organized—left brain • cluttered with old assignments—right brain		
13	• overall story—right brain • many specific details—left brain		
14	• sitting erect in a chair—left brain • walking around the room—right brain		
15	• quiet area—left brain • background music or sounds—right brain		
	Totals		

Class Data Table

Student	Left Brain	Right Brain
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
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31		
32		
33		
34		
35		
Totals		

Questions:

1. Based on your individual results, what was your total number of checks for left brain?

_____

2. Based on your individual results, what was your total number of checks for right brain?

_____

3. What do these numbers indicate? _____

4. Based on the class totals for the left and right brain, which side is considered dominant? Or are both sides balanced?

_____

5. How does the class data compare with your individual results? Explain.

_____

_____

_____

5. Based on the class totals for both sides of the brain, what can you conclude about the dominant side, if there is one? *(Hint: Refer to the introduction paragraph)*

_____

_____

_____

_____