I would frame myself as a great, unorganized mass of potential energy. I value and pride myself on my interests and passions, especially in being able to make progress in areas that I care about. From research to personal projects, I find that I choose to pursue many different avenues of what I’m interested in. It’s for this reason that I’m incredibly invested in my own independence. I like being able to determine my own direction and the nature of how I go about approaching projects, both personal and professional. Achievement, however, I was surprised by. It occurs to me, though, that this likely refers to my need for reinforcement and evaluation of my work. In some areas, like business, it is impossible to really get feedback on how well you’re doing. In my intended profession, Clinical Psychology, you rarely get distinct evaluation when helping clients. Sure, you may have patients display more positive affect, but it can be difficult to acknowledge significant progress you’ve made. This makes me wonder about how effective this profession will be and if it will provide me with satisfaction in the ways that I need.

I need to work in a profession that deals with people. I’ve known this for a very long time; Back when I worked with computers, I found it difficult to keep interest in it. I would program something, and it would only spew out what I expected, over and over. I found that working with people was much more fulfilling – they would respond differently every time. This is why the Social aspect comes as no surprise to me and is quite expected. I like exploring people, which is also why investigative makes sense for me. Investigative says that I like math and science, though, and that’s generally not true. This makes me doubt the investigative trait somewhat. It did validate my want to do research, though.

I looked into other potential career pathways in psychology after I got these results, in the case that clinical psychology may not be the route that I should go down. I thought about the
concept of becoming a psychiatrist, since it would provide me with more money and could let me give people medication which can be incredibly effective for dealing with mental health. I don’t know if I would be able to handle the difficulty of med school, though. In my past experiences with psychiatrists, as well, I’ve found that they’re typically overworked and have no opportunity to work individually with people to the depth that they should. It’s for this reason that I think I may continue with clinical psychology, but I’m still confused as to how I can solve this issue.

Overall, my takeaway was that I should more carefully consider if clinical psychology would be the right route for me. I fell into this field, and I keep fearing that I might not be sticking with it because I care about it but, instead, because it’s what I’d been planning on doing. I want to reconsider the options available to me in the realm of psychology and see if there are any further fields that might interest me. More importantly, though, I now know that it would be most beneficial for me to work with people in a way that is fueled by the spirit of investigation.

With this information, I doubled down on my research pursuits after taking the test. I reached out to a few labs and was able to snag a spot in the Social Identity Lab working as a research assistant next quarter. Research is something that I know I like to do, and I feel it will bring me closer to understanding what I truly want to do as a job. I don’t know if research will be able to propel me as a source of income, but it’s something I do genuinely enjoy and would like to look into further.