

- A) A conservative is often defined as someone to the right of the political spectrum who most likely older and richer. They often, but not always, hold strong religious values and feel that less government is better.

B) A liberal is on the left of the spectrum with a belief in government programs and an acceptance of higher taxes. Liberals are more likely to be minorities and probably have a larger spectrum between the middle and the extreme than do conservatives.
- I would consider myself as more moderate. Fundamentally I am liberal (believe in government programs, public education, taxing, welfare, etc), but I have some very strong conservative leaning views that reflect where I am from (Seattle). While much of Seattle is considered liberal, it could also be said that many of the residents are fiscal conservatives. I fall somewhat into that category and have argued the merits of business many times. Capitalism is good for America in my opinion, as long as the government can help its citizens take part in it. On issues like abortion and affirmative action you'll find that my view-teeter on the fence, with both being decisive, but also in the middle. You don't have to be a flip-flopper to be moderate. Independent is probably a better word for it, but if I were to choose a party (which I don't have to in the state of Washington) it would be the Democratic Party.
- Compass: Economic -3.12, Social -2.46  
The Advocates: Liberal
- It was a little bit left of where I said before, but just a little bit. I would also note the language of each quiz and how it changes how one may answer a question. I stopped taking the Politopia quiz in the middle because I felt like the only possible answers were rather extreme. For example I would like a combination of strong drug policy, but without mandatory minimums. This option was not offered and is certainly centrist.
- As I mentioned in question four, these are not good indicators of ideology. While the quizzes may come in the ballpark by ranking answers based on what someone in a certain ideology is more likely to say, they don't allow for a specific assessment. While it says someone could possibly be in the middle, it doesn't allow for the best kind of citizen: one who looks at each issue before making a decision and sometimes is on either side of the spectrum. In addition it is much like a poll, where several factors, including the wording of a question and the limited possible answers as well as which questions are asked, can change how someone scores.

6. You could, for the most part, likely predict voting patterns because, like I said, these were pretty close. However, there are two specific examples that stand out here and are both current. First in this presidential election many voters supported Hillary Clinton because of her gender and Barack Obama because of his race. That will, and likely has crossed party and ideological lines. People have certain “deal-breakers” like that in every election. Second is the issue of abortion. I agree with Barack Obama, as a religious person, that abortion is wrong and immoral. If you took my religious position you would think I would vote to ban it. However, like Obama says, I understand that I live in a country that protects individual rights as inalienable. That means I have no right to tell someone else what they can and can’t do with their body as long they are not harming another person. The argument about unborn fetus’ being living organisms aside, this is an issue where my personal ideology differs from my vote.
  
7. The first thing I would do is look at their voting record. Obviously their record is a good indicator of how they would vote. Sans that information I would ask for written answers to very specific questions on very specific issues in a broad range of things. Let people use their own language and then see where they stand on each issue. Give a positive-negative scoring system with something like -2-to-2 being moderate and so forth. The important part here is that people get a chance to formulate their own answers whether than pick one that may only part describe them. Then you are more likely to predict their vote and/or create a bill tailored to what they want.