

# Personality and Ideological Factors of Alternative Learning Favorability

John Vandivier<sup>1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>4400 University Dr, Fairfax, VA 22030

---

## Abstract

This paper investigates an original data set ( $n = 217$ ) to understand public and employer disposition toward alternative postsecondary learning. This study builds on the literatures of alternative learning and personality to solve an apparent contradiction where conservatives reject alternative learning. This paper specifically tests whether personality is a solving mechanism.

*Keywords:* education economics, alternative education, debt crisis, big 5

*2010 MSC:* I21, I22, J20

---

## 1. Introduction and Description of Data

## 2. Methodology and Model

We assume indepdence of personality and ideology, along with stability of both over time. These assumptions are necessary because multiple regression of  
5 both sets of effects cannot be accomplished with the present data set.

We have ideological effects, which I am distinguishing from cultural effects. Cultural effects include regional and ethnic effects.

Non-cultural ideological effects include religiosity, christianity, favorability to regulation, favorability to AI (conservatism and anti-innovation bias proxy),  
10 STEM employment measure (scientism proxy), and whether American education is important (nationalist / anti-foreign prox)

then there are personality effects (OCEAN, grit)

then there are standard sociological controls (age, gender, education, income)

## 3. Results

15 how does this relate to hiring and firing or industry growth trends? answer: personality answer: managers tend to have certain personality traits do they also tend to have a certain ideology...? idk industry growth isn't really effected bc personality is taken as socially stable, this info could be relevant for product marketing; some personalities being more friendly to alt education however,  
20 preliminary analysis indicates these effects are small

ai favorability is lower among low regulation supporters highly significant and positive relation found, but total r2 is low this is counterintuitive because intellectual conservatives should embrace technological advancement and the free market potential solution: as a matter of personality, or Kahneman's System 1  
25 response, conservatives may exhibit anti-innovation bias raising more regulation and ai (eg techno-liberal or scientistic progressive) is associated with a reduction in alt ed cred support reducing ai and reducing regulation (eg anti-innovation conservative) is associated with more support for alt ed cred (indicates ideological dominance over personality at survey time) but, both of these effects

Table 1: Table of Multiple Regression on Enrollment, Selected Variables

	M-2018	Prior M-2019	M-2019	M-2020
AI	7.001e-01*	X		-7.297e-01*
AI <sup>2</sup>	-6.495e-02*	X		6.178e-02**
Expectation <sup>2</sup>		X	1.055e-01***	3.840e-02***
Expectation <sup>3</sup>	3.437e-03***	X	-6.947e-03*	
Familiarity <sup>3</sup>		X		1.845e-02*
Familiarity-Grit		X		-1.506e-03**
Income <sup>3</sup>		X		-1.801e-03*
Is College Graduate		X	4.933e-01	1.060e+00**
Is Male		X	-1.579e+00*	4.053e-01
Is Manager		X	-4.244e-01	2.879e-01
Is STEM	-1.212e+00*	X		
IT Industry	1.830e+00**	X		8.530e-01*
Nationalism <sup>2</sup>	1.117e-02*	X		
Pro Regulation	1.161e+00*	X	2.438e-01***	6.215e-01*
Religiosity	1.203e-01*	X		
Time <sup>3</sup>	-1.132e-10	X	2.771e-12*	
West South Central Region	-1.533e+00**	X		
R-sqr	0.5971	0.5257	0.4182	0.4480
Adj. R-sqr	0.5016	0.4373	0.3528	0.3655
N	168	192	298	201

\*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$

30 are weak. ideological dominance over personality is consistent with results in  
this paper: weak personality effects relative to ideology (2:1, without multiple  
regression).

#### **4. Conclusions**