

Projective Tests Reflect Dispositions

The main idea with projective tests is that people tend to structure their experience around their personality. People have characteristic values, assumptions about people, ways of characterizing themselves, conflicts, and generally ways of viewing the world. Often times people's reasons for doing things are clear. For example, if you see someone shoot a gun at someone else, you can imagine that the second person is pretty well motivated to avoid being shot, and are likely to be frightened and angry.

Such situations don't offer much insight into a person's personality; however, It is better to have a somewhat ambiguous situation instead, so that the person has to organize the situation. That way,

whatever the person brings to the situation should reflect their characteristic disposition -- their personality. Projective tests are tests in which the test taker 'projects' his or her personality into a situation.