

**Paper #1: “Who Am I?”**

**SECTION 1: “Who Am I?”**

Three theories presented in this class best represent who I am as a person and help me know what kinds of education and career options will be best suited to me. Those theories are: Myers-Briggs Personality Indicator, Values Survey, and Three Sensory Learning Styles.

***Theory #1: Myers-Briggs & Keirsey Temperaments***

My Myers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator is ENTJ (Extraverted, iNtuitive, Thinking, Judging). There are certain characteristics for which ENTJs are known. In particular, ENTJs are known for being visionary leaders: “The ENTJ has the unique ability of having the vision to see the future and the corresponding consequences of decisions that could affect the future. Contingencies, variables, linear and non-linear aspects, and psychological factors are considered as well, all while objectivity and logic are held at the helm to guide the way.” Therefore, I am best suited to roles that would allow me to be in a position to lead others towards a long-term vision.

Related to the MBTI is Temperament. My ENTJ personality type means that I am of the Rational Temperament. Rationals are knowledge-driven, value competence, and excel in roles that require strategic and systems thinking. Therefore being involved in the process of advancing or searching for knowledge and truth would be a vision that would be consistent with my personality and temperament.

In addition to strong leadership tendencies, ENTJs are also known for a propensity to challenge authority: “When many ENTJ’s disagree with someone - no matter what that person’s

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status or level of power or authority is - he/she will argue, criticize and question to their fullest ability." According to this description, I am likely to question or challenge someone who has authority over my life when I do not agree with or understand what they are doing. This propensity to challenge authority, combined with my tendency to focus on the vision, means that I need to be part of a team where I value and support the bigger picture of what they are trying to accomplish. That way, I will be able to join the leadership in what they are doing rather than fight them. It also means that I am not pre-disposed to want to anticipate and try to meet the needs of my superiors like many other personality types do. For example, when I worked as a secretary, I would get irritated with my boss when she wanted me to stop what I was working on so that I could do something she felt was more important. Whereas some of the personality types who prefer Feeling, would be energized by being able to support their supervisor in this way.

### ***Theory #2: Values Survey***

According to the Values Survey, my top values are, Knowledge, Helping Others, Moral Judgment and Personal Consistency, and Independence and Freedom. According to this survey, Knowledge means "valuing knowledge and continuous learning is important to you. You will prefer careers that allow you to keep learning." In my prior career of corporate clerical jobs, I noticed that I enjoyed my positions as long as they offered me a new learning challenge. However, as soon as I mastered the job, I was bored, restless, and ready to move on to my next challenge. My third value, Helping Others means, "helping others to become well, or sharing your knowledge to benefit others." Moral Judgment and Personal Consistency require that I am in "a career in which you feel you are contributing to something worthwhile is important." These two together explain that while I may have the natural talents to think like a business person, I never valued working in the corporate world where the primary vision was to make

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someone else rich – I much prefer to positively impact lives. Finally, my Independence and Freedom indicates that I “value freedom and flexibility. You will probably not be satisfied in careers that are highly supervised or scheduled.” Normally I get along very well with my supervisors; but I can remember a few prior positions where my supervisors were very controlling; and consequently I did not last very long in these jobs. Yet I enjoyed working with those supervisors who trusted me and respected me enough to allow me to figure out for myself how to accomplish the task at hand. Values are subject to change over time. However, with the twenty to thirty jobs I have held since becoming an adult, I have come to realize these values have played a major factor in my successes and challenges in prior positions.

### ***Theory #3: Three Sensory Learning Styles***

Since learning is a major part of my personality and values, I need to give serious consideration to how I best learn. The Three Sensory Learning Styles inventory reveals more information about me regarding my preferred learning styles. According to this inventory, my preferred sensory learning style is Auditory. Auditory learners “Learn best by hearing information. They can accurately remember details of information heard in conversations or lectures. They have strong language skills that include well-developed vocabularies and appreciation of words. They also have strong oral communication skills that enable them to carry on conversations and can be articulate. Because I learn best by hearing and can articulate my thoughts easily through speaking and writing, I actually enjoy lecture-style teaching methods and writing papers. Consequently it is easy for me to imagine spending many years in traditional college classes to prepare for a highly-skilled, professional-level career.

## **SECTION 2: "What have I learned about myself from this?"**

Through learning these theories, I have discovered a few things about myself. First, it helps me to understand why I had no concept of my talents when I was younger. My giftedness reveals that I am best suited to positions of leadership, but I never had an opportunity to develop those talents because I was always forced into support roles instead because of my lack of formal education. Second, this also shows me why I hated doing a job, which I was naturally good at doing. I had excellent clerical skills, but was not suited to clerical roles due to my nature. Third, this also shows why at 18 years old, I could not finish one class at a time. Yet when I was 35, I was able to finish 120 units in two years. When I was 18, I lacked vision for why I was in college. I enjoyed it, but I did not know what I was aiming for. Without that vision, I had no motivation make the necessary sacrifices college requires. Yet at 35, I had a goal; so figuring out what I needed to do to get there was "common sense." My attitude was, "Give me the information I need, then get out of my way."

## **SECTION 3: "What types of educational opportunities and jobs are best for me based on this information?"**

Since my personality is best suited for leadership rather than support, being in a support or service role for long periods of time will not be a good fit for me because I am more likely to challenge authority rather than blindly support them when I have a philosophical disagreement with what they are trying to accomplish. However, since ENTJs enjoy learning, I will be able to be in support roles as long as it provides an opportunity for me to learn something new. In other words, I could handle support roles as Survival, Entry-Level, or Transition jobs, but they are definitely not Dream Jobs for me. My values also reveal to me what I should look for in jobs in the future: Working for the greater good, encourage learning and competence in others, and

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having the freedom to decide how to get things done. Finally, my learning styles further suggest that I would be best suited to roles that require advanced degrees.

Since I would be better suited to pursuing advanced degrees, I need to also give serious consideration to what kind of educational programs would be best for me. The most obvious idea here is that traditional lecture-style educational programs would certainly fit me well. I am the kind of person who does not care about whether or not I have a close, personal relationship with my professors; therefore I would be able to do well in a large school where I could get "lost in the crowd" or in a small, intimate environment. I tend to focus on the long-term, big picture. Also, as an auditory learner, I would do well in an academic major where I would be studying theories, which emphasize global perspectives on the world, and having to write many papers as a way of demonstrating what I have learned.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, my self-awareness process reveals that my career journey's future needs to take into account who I am as a person. Any future education and career endeavors I choose should be able to capitalize on my natural and acquired abilities and interests of knowledge, learning, visionary planning, long-range thinking, and communication skills that are used in the process of improving the lives of others. My educational plans should take into account my preference for traditional classroom learning preferences and my willingness to spend many years pursuing advanced degrees.