MANAGEMENT PROFILE

EVERYTHING DiSC MANAGEMENT

Casey Tyler

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INTRODUCTION TO DiSC®

Welcome to Everything DiSC®

Casey, have you ever wondered why connecting with some people is easier for you than with others?

Maybe you've noticed that you have an easier time managing people who focus on creating lively environments and relationships.

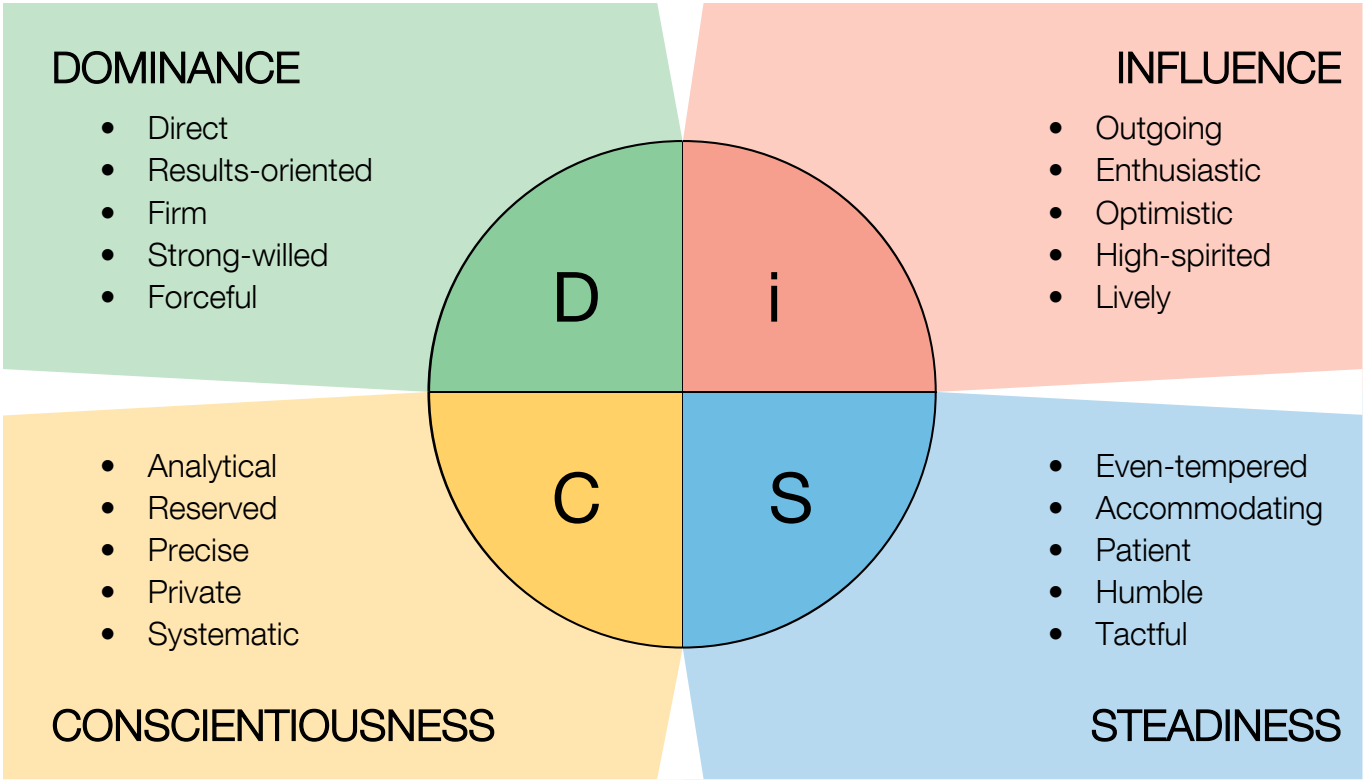
Or, maybe you're more comfortable working with those who take an optimistic, fast-paced approach than those who work at a steadier pace.

Or, perhaps you relate best to people who are more enthusiastic than analytical.

Everything DiSC® is a simple tool that offers information to help you understand yourself and others better—and this can be of tremendous use as a manager. This report uses your individual assessment data to provide a wealth of information about your management priorities and preferences. In addition, you'll learn how to connect better with people whose priorities and preferences differ from yours.

Cornerstone Principles

- All DiSC styles are **equally valuable**, and people with all styles can be effective managers.
- Your management style is also influenced by **other factors** such as life experiences, education, and maturity.
- **Understanding yourself** better is the first step to becoming more effective with your employees and your manager.
- Learning about other people's DiSC styles can help you **understand their priorities** and how they may differ from your own.
- You can improve the quality of your management experience by using DiSC to build more **effective relationships.**



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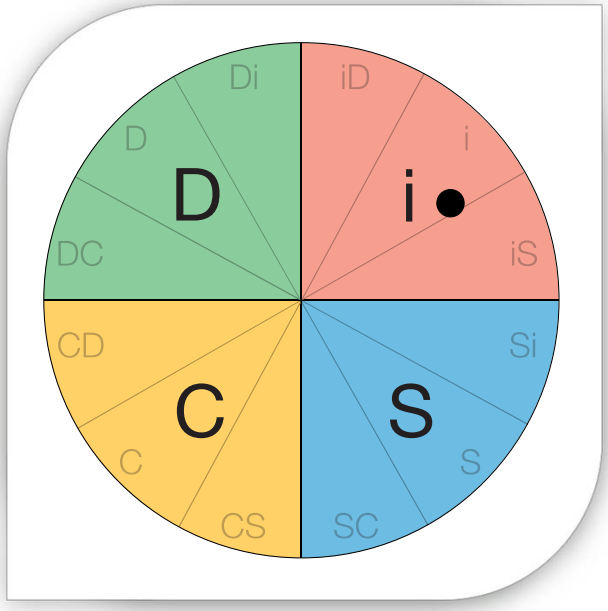
YOUR DiSC® OVERVIEW

How is this report personalized to you, Casey?

In order to get the most out of your *Everything DiSC Management® Profile*, you'll need to understand your personal map.

Your Dot

As you saw on the previous page, the Everything DiSC® model is made up of four basic styles: D, i, S, and C. Each style is divided into three regions. The picture to the right illustrates the 12 different regions where a person's dot might be located.



Your DiSC® Style: i

Your dot location indicates your DiSC style. Because your dot is located in the middle of the i region, you have an i style.

Keep in mind that everyone is a blend of all four styles, but most people tend strongly toward one or two styles. Whether your dot is in the center of one style or in a region that borders two, **no dot location is better than another.** All DiSC® styles are equal and valuable in their own ways.

Close to the Edge or Close to the Center?

A dot's **distance from the edge** of the circle shows how naturally inclined a person is to encompass the characteristics of his or her DiSC style. A dot positioned toward the edge of the circle indicates a strong inclination toward the characteristics of the style. A dot located between the edge and the center of the circle indicates a moderate inclination. And a dot positioned close to the center of the circle indicates a slight inclination. A dot in the center of the circle is no better than one on the edge, and vice versa. Your dot location is near the edge of the circle, so you are **strongly inclined** and probably relate well to the characteristics associated with the i style.

Now that you know more about the personalization of your Everything DiSC Management Map, you'll read about the management priorities and preferences associated with the i style. Using this knowledge, you'll learn how to use Everything DiSC principles to improve your ability to direct, delegate, motivate, and develop others more successfully. Finally, you'll explore ways to work more effectively with your own manager.

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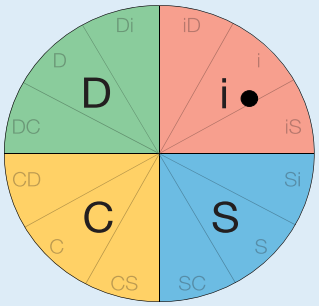
YOUR DiSC® STYLE & DOT

Your Dot Tells a Story

Your DiSC Style Is: i



Like other managers with the i style, Casey, you probably enjoy relating to other people. You tend to have a fairly extensive network of friends and colleagues, and you may view a roomful of strangers as a fun opportunity to connect. Similarly, you're likely to get personal satisfaction out of introducing people who would not otherwise meet.

Because you're optimistic and enthusiastic, you may find it easy to get the people you manage excited about your goals and ideas. When you speak, you're likely to promote your opinions with passion. Many people probably find your enthusiasm contagious. However, those who are more skeptical may feel that you are overly optimistic at times.

When communicating, you tend to be expressive, and you may dial up your volume and gestures to get people's attention. Compared to most managers, you have a stronger urge to process your feelings by verbalizing them. At times, your somewhat talkative nature may cause you to monopolize conversations, particularly with those who are more soft-spoken.

In terms of time management, you like to have a variety of tasks on your plate and probably grow bored with routine. Most likely, you maintain your enthusiasm and drive under time pressure. Although you're often excited to start a new project, you may sometimes dive in without adequate planning or resources. Because you're probably confident in your ability to improvise, you may prefer a more free-flowing approach.

You probably enjoy making gut-instinct decisions, but you also tend to be accepting of other people's ideas. In fact, when people offer opinions or weigh in, you sometimes may be reluctant to give negative feedback for fear of being seen as the "bad guy." At times, your optimism may also cause you to overestimate your own abilities or misjudge the difficulty of a task.

You genuinely enjoy being around other people, so you probably encourage people to work collaboratively. Most likely, you see team brainstorming sessions as leading to endless possibilities, and you tend to actively solicit ideas from other people. However, because you naturally want to connect and collaborate with others, you may not always realize that some people require more personal space.

Like others with the i style, you may tie your self-worth closely to your social circle. You strive to make favorable impressions whenever possible, and you're most likely comfortable being the center of attention. In fact, you probably enjoy telling stories and entertaining others in a colorful, engaging way.

In conflict, you may be inclined to brush any unpleasantness under the rug for as long as possible. However, if your anger, frustration, or hurt reaches a breaking point, you may say things you later regret. For you, venting may feel like a therapeutic process, but it may make the people you manage highly uncomfortable.

Casey, like others with the i style, your most valuable contributions as a manager may include your ability to generate excitement, your high energy, and your desire to bring people together. In fact, these are probably some of the qualities that others admire most about you.

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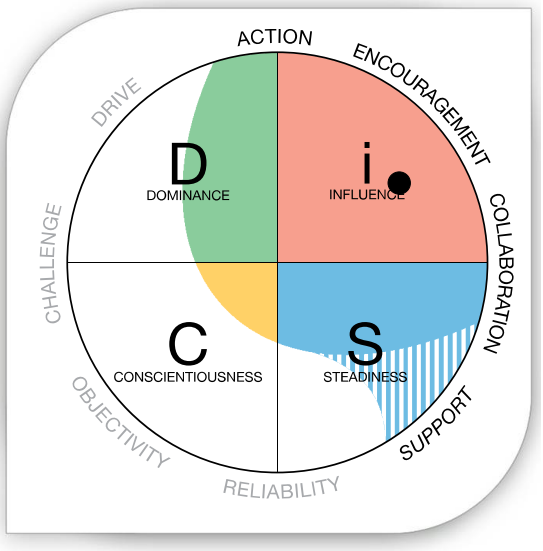
YOUR DiSC® PRIORITIES & SHADING

Your Shading Expands the Story

Casey, while your dot location and your DiSC® style can say a great deal about you, your map **shading** is also important.

The eight words around the Everything DiSC map are what we call **priorities,** or the primary areas where people focus their energy. The closer your shading comes to a priority, the more likely you are to focus your energy on that area. Everyone has at least three priorities, and sometimes people have four or five. **Having five priorities is no better than having three, and vice versa.**

Typically, people with the i style have shading that touches **Encouragement**, **Action**, and **Collaboration**. Your shading stretches to include **Support**, which isn't characteristic of your style.



What Priorities Shape *Your* Management Experience?

▶ **Providing Encouragement**

Casey, like other managers with the i style, you tend to value people's emotional needs and want members of your team to feel good about their contributions. Therefore, you probably take time to give people recognition and celebrate group victories. You focus on providing encouragement so people feel energized and optimistic about their work.

▶ **Valuing Collaboration**

You tend to recognize the importance of group effort, making it a key component of how you work. Most likely, you include others in important activities and decisions, and you may pride yourself on your ability to build team spirit by getting everyone involved. You value collaboration because you think it not only leads to better outcomes, but it makes the job more fun.

▶ **Taking Action**

Managers with the i style usually like excitement and fast movement. Most likely, you're energized by innovative, groundbreaking solutions, and you're eager to hit the ground running. In fact, your pace might be a bit fast for some of the people you manage, but rather than slow down, you may encourage them to catch up with you. Because you emphasize action, you may inspire your team to push forward quickly.

▶ **Giving Support**

Moreover, you place a high priority on supporting others, although this is not typical of the i style. You may prefer to have harmony in your relationships, and people probably know you're ready to help or listen patiently when needed. Because an orderly, peaceful environment is important to you, you're willing to put your own needs aside to give support to others.

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YOUR MANAGEMENT PREFERENCES

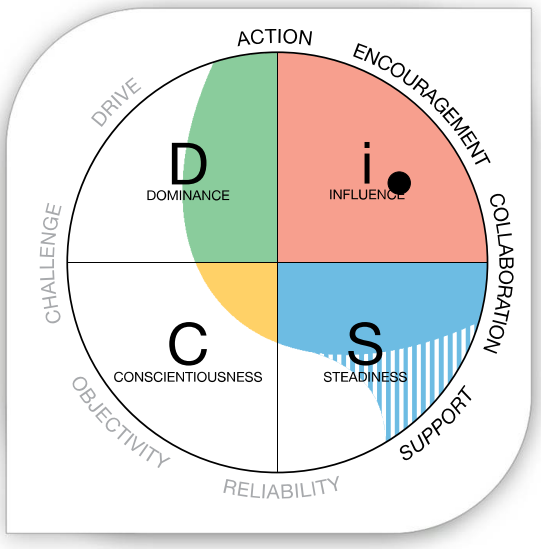
What Do You Enjoy About Managing?

Different people find different aspects of their work motivating. Like other people with the i style, you may enjoy working with others toward a common goal, and you may strive to create a high-energy environment where people can express themselves. In addition, you likely appreciate that management allows you to help others succeed in their professional development. Furthermore, you may appreciate the ability to foster a supportive environment where people listen to one another's needs, and this is less typical of the i style.

You probably enjoy many of the following aspects of your work:

MOTIVATORS

- Developing warm relationships with team members
- Keeping things moving
- Inspiring others to do their best
- Promoting creativity
- Building an optimistic mindset in others
- Getting people involved
- Increasing enthusiasm
- Supporting people when they express their concerns and frustrations
- Considering the needs and opinions of others



What do your priorities say about what motivates you and what you find stressful?

What Drains Your Energy as a Manager?

Then there are those management responsibilities that are stressful for you. Because you want to maintain friendly relationships and be well-liked, you may have problems pushing people to get results, especially if doing so requires you to confront them. Furthermore, you may dislike an atmosphere that feels dull or hinders your energetic pace. At the same time, unlike others with the i style, you may find it difficult to manage people who are too aggressive or combative.

Many of the following aspects of your work may be stressful for you:

STRESSORS

- Giving people unpleasant feedback
- Being forceful or insistent with others
- Making tough decisions independently
- Working steadily toward long-term goals
- Managing challenging or skeptical people
- Being unable to use your intuition
- Having to slow your pace
- Having to reprimand people
- Dealing with angry or argumentative people

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YOUR DIRECTING & DELEGATING STYLE

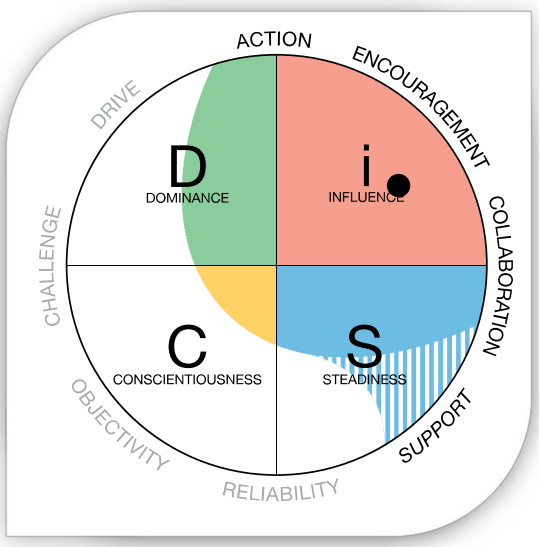
As a manager, you may find that effectively directing and delegating to your employees is more complex than simply handing off an assignment with a "please" and "thank you." Perhaps you've noticed that individual employees respond positively to different types of instruction and feedback. Some want specific directions and welcome objective feedback, while others want just the opposite. Based on your DiSC® style and priorities, you have a natural approach to directing and delegating. However, to maximize satisfaction and productivity, it's important to consider how effective your approach may be with employees of different styles.

Casey, because you place a **strong emphasis on encouragement**, you tend to be optimistic about people and their abilities. Therefore, you usually give individuals the benefit of the doubt and may assign tasks to team members without making sure they have the skills to get the job done.

You also prefer to **collaborate**, and the people you manage may be empowered by your trust in their abilities. However, when situations require a more direct approach, you may have trouble being tough and holding people accountable.

Because you **focus on action**, you tend to be fast-paced when directing a team. You probably try to get others excited about their tasks, but you may occasionally be vague about the specifics in your eagerness to get people moving.

Furthermore, you tend to be **supportive**, which isn't typical for someone with the i style. As such, you usually make sure people know you're there to help when needed.



How Do You Approach Directing & Delegating?

STRENGTHS

- Giving direction in a friendly and positive manner
- Making people feel that they are important contributors
- Encouraging creativity in the execution of tasks
- Generating enthusiasm
- Getting people moving
- Making yourself available to help

CHALLENGES

- Pushing people to complete their tasks
- Judging people's abilities or competencies, without overestimating them
- Giving clear, detailed explanations
- Analyzing options before assigning a task
- Highlighting the importance of routine tasks
- Creating a reliable setting

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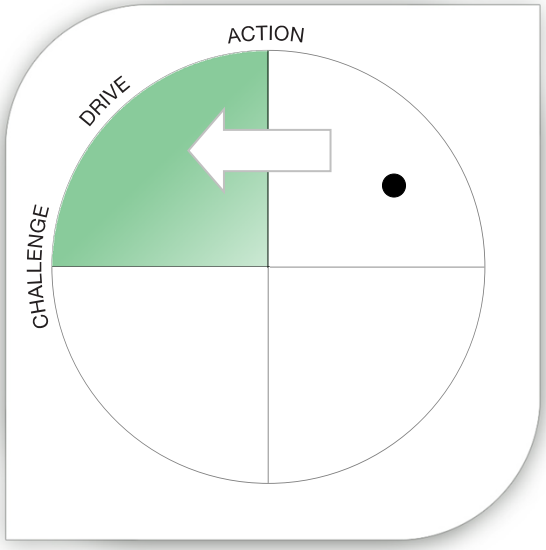
DIRECTING & DELEGATING TO THE D STYLE

How Does the D Style Like to Work?

People with the D style prioritize the bottom line and are driven to get results. Furthermore, they are willing to take risks in pursuit of success, probably even more so than you. They strive for ambitious goals and want the freedom to make their own decisions without having to ask for input from other people. And because they value their independence, they may not share your preference to collaborate and work closely as a team. Their autonomy also makes them less likely to require the encouragement you frequently offer.



Potential Problems When Working Together

People with the D style are often questioning and skeptical, and they may challenge your authority if they disagree with your decisions. They don't share your focus on other people's feelings and may be blunt or assertive when expressing their opinions. And because you tend to assume the best in people, you may mistake their self-assured attitude as competence, even if they don't have the necessary skills or experience. In these cases, you may be surprised when they fail to deliver what you expected.

How to Be Effective with the D Style

Like you, people with the D style are fast-paced and want to work on exciting projects that will make a big impact. Therefore, encourage them to tackle more adventurous tasks. Give them freedom to decide on methods and tactics, but make sure they don't try to make decisions that exceed their qualifications. If they have exhibited sound judgment in the past, show respect for their bold ideas and decision-making ability. Given your i style, you may need to focus more closely on their skill level and make sure to check in more frequently if they lack experience.

If they're less experienced:

- Don't confuse confidence with competence.
- Review their plans before they move ahead.
- Check in often enough to make sure they're on track.
- Have them check with you before any risky decisions are made.
- Let them know that they will be given more autonomy as they gain experience.

If they're more experienced:

- Show them the most practical way to be productive.
- Be direct about the results you expect.
- Set a deadline and let them figure out how to proceed.
- Make sure they understand the consequences of their shortcuts.
- Specify the limits of their authority while still allowing for some autonomy.

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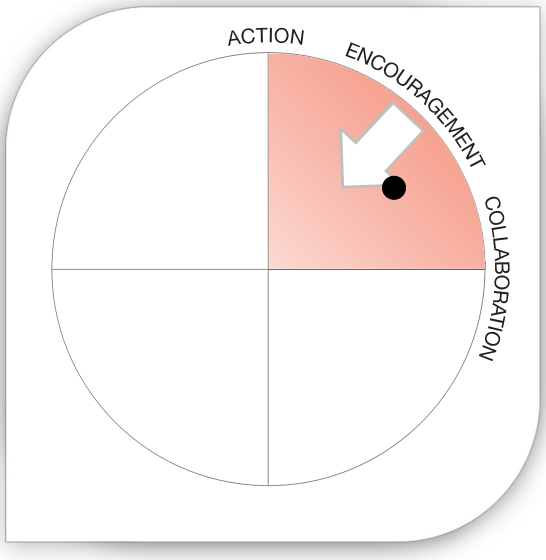
DIRECTING & DELEGATING TO THE i STYLE



How Does the i Style Like to Work?

People who share your i style are generally upbeat and optimistic. You're both usually sociable and openly expressive, and they probably appreciate your tendency to provide them with encouragement. They typically share your enthusiasm for exciting tasks and your eagerness to interact with others. Furthermore, they're outgoing when it comes to expressing their thoughts and feelings. Just as you tend to be at ease when ideas and conversation flow freely, they may be most relaxed when they can be upfront about their needs.

Potential Problems When Working Together

People who share your i style like to work in a fun environment, and you both probably appreciate the social aspects of the job. Like you, they enjoy spending time with other people, channeling their high energy into collaborative efforts. However, at times, your "i" employees may allow social needs to take precedence over the bottom line, and you may neglect to push them for practical results. And because you may find it easy to develop friendly relationships with them, it may be difficult for you to give them negative feedback.

How to Be Effective with the i Style

Like you, these individuals tend to move quickly. Because they seek new or exciting projects, they may become restless if they are forced to work for long periods of time on routine tasks. They share your tendency to improvise and make spontaneous decisions. As a result, you may need to check in frequently with those who lack experience to make sure they are on track and meeting deadlines. For those who are more experienced, encourage creativity and experimentation, but make sure vital details or tasks don't slip through the cracks.

If they're less experienced:

- Make sure they don't lose track of details.
- Give them plenty of encouragement.
- Limit their socializing.
- Check their understanding since their enthusiasm might hide a lack of clarity.
- Hold them accountable for missed deadlines or skipped steps.

If they're more experienced:

- Allow them to take the lead in group settings.
- Make time to go over the details with them.
- Encourage them to keep moving forward.
- Acknowledge their contributions publicly.
- Keep them on track and on schedule.

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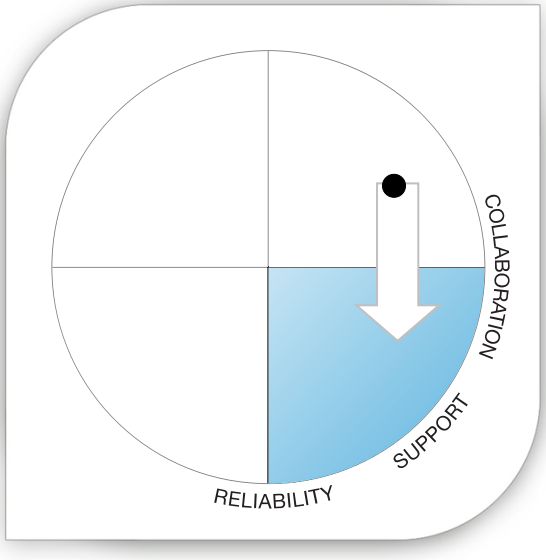
DIRECTING & DELEGATING TO THE S STYLE

How Does the S Style Like to Work?

People with the S style tend to be accommodating and flexible, and you share their supportive nature even though it's less typical for someone with the i style. Therefore, they'll respond positively to your friendly manner and genuine interest in their needs. However, because they want to be sure they know exactly what is required, they want to be given clear guidance, yet may be too soft-spoken to ask for it. Consequently, you may need to make an extra effort to supply the step-by-step instruction that they like.



Potential Problems When Working Together

These individuals tend to make steady progress toward predictable goals, while you're more likely to rely on the power of enthusiasm and big ideas. Therefore, they may become uncomfortable if you delegate high-pressure tasks to them or urge them to take risks. They dislike dealing with abrupt changes, so your tendency to improvise and make quick adjustments may leave them disoriented. As a result, they may look for more stability from you, while you may become frustrated with their hesitancy to take chances.

How to Be Effective with the S Style

Like you, people with the S style may be most comfortable in friendly, cooperative environments. While they share your preference to collaborate with others, they will seldom push for more authority within the group because they are much more comfortable working behind the scenes. Give them step-by-step instructions and make sure they're comfortable with a task before setting them loose. If they have more experience, give them as much responsibility as you can, but make it clear that you're available to advise them when needed.

If they're less experienced:

- Give clear, step-by-step directions.
- Ask questions to confirm their understanding.
- Check in with them frequently.
- Refrain from giving them too much responsibility too quickly.
- Avoid pushing them to move ahead before they are ready.

If they're more experienced:

- Ask enough questions to elicit their concerns.
- Give them additional responsibilities when they seem ready for more challenges.
- Encourage them to take initiative.
- Make yourself available as an advisor.
- Ask them directly what kind of support they need.

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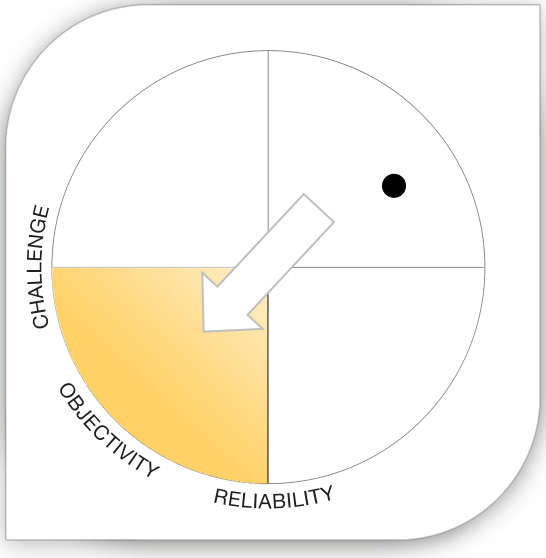
DIRECTING & DELEGATING TO THE C STYLE

How Does the C Style Like to Work?

People with the C style relate best to clear objectives and fact-based ideas. They take time to analyze concepts and closely examine solutions. Because they rely on logic and objectivity, your tendency to make decisions based on gut instinct may frustrate them. Furthermore, they're comfortable working alone, and they may even avoid the collaboration that you prefer. In fact, they require only very minimal face time and appreciate environments that foster independence.



Potential Problems When Working Together

These individuals want to produce dependable outcomes, so they tend to thoroughly consider all the consequences before choosing a plan. They prefer to go over options and proposals carefully, which is in contrast to your tendency to move quickly. Therefore, they may become annoyed if you pressure them to multi-task or rush their efforts, and they may see your push for exciting options as careless or sloppy. In turn, you may think their tendency to go over solutions repeatedly stands in the way of progress.

How to Be Effective with the C Style

People with the C style want to work in an environment where they feel free to point out flaws and question inefficiencies. You may believe that their objections stifle creativity, but remember that they are more concerned with high quality and getting things right. Those with less experience may spend too much time analyzing and perfecting their work, so be sure to check in often enough to keep them on track. For those with more experience, allow more autonomy but set clear deadlines that keep them moving forward.

If they're less experienced:

- Avoid forcing them to collaborate unless it's necessary.
- Help them achieve quality without putting deadlines at risk.
- Communicate with clarity rather than enthusiasm.
- Make sure they have the resources they need.
- Check in to make sure they aren't getting bogged down.

If they're more experienced:

- Check in when necessary to ensure forward progress.
- Encourage them to ask for more direction if they need it.
- Listen to their concerns about quality.
- Allow them to work independently when possible.
- Give them opportunities to help solve complex issues.

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MOTIVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT YOU CREATE

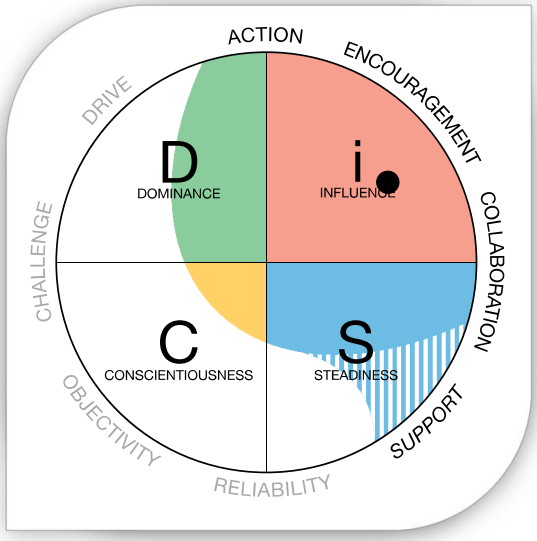
You can't motivate people. They have to motivate themselves. As a manager, however, you can create an environment where it's easy for people to find their own natural motivation. This means building an atmosphere that addresses employees' basic needs and preferences so they can do their best work, and you may naturally create a certain type of environment for those around you. It's important to understand the nature of this environment because it has a major impact on the motivation of the people you manage.

Casey, because you are **enthusiastic and encourage others**, the environment you likely create is one where people feel recognized and accepted. You probably help them see that work can be fun, and as a result, they may be more upbeat and optimistic about their tasks and contributions.

Most likely, your **tendency to take action** might help establish a high-energy setting where people want to get going and keep moving. The people you manage may be inspired by your fast pace, and your emphasis on forward momentum can help instill confidence that they are going to help make things happen quickly.

Similarly, your **strong preference for collaboration** may strengthen the bond among team members, which is often essential for reaching goals. People who feel that group efforts are appreciated are more likely to seek opportunities to brainstorm together and make improvements, without concern for who should receive the most credit.

Furthermore, unlike others with the i style, you have an extra priority that may influence motivation and the environment you create. Since you tend to **offer support**, the people you manage probably feel that someone cares about them, which can be extremely motivating for some.



The Environment You Create

- Because you deliver positive feedback, people feel good about their contributions.
- Your optimism and enthusiasm can make work more fun.
- Your passion and high energy may inspire people to move quickly.
- Because you build teams, people feel a sense of camaraderie.
- When you put confidence in others, they may feel empowered to use creative approaches.
- Because you are understanding and patient, workers are less frustrated when attempting new things.

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MOTIVATION AND THE D STYLE

What Are the Motivational Needs of the D Style?

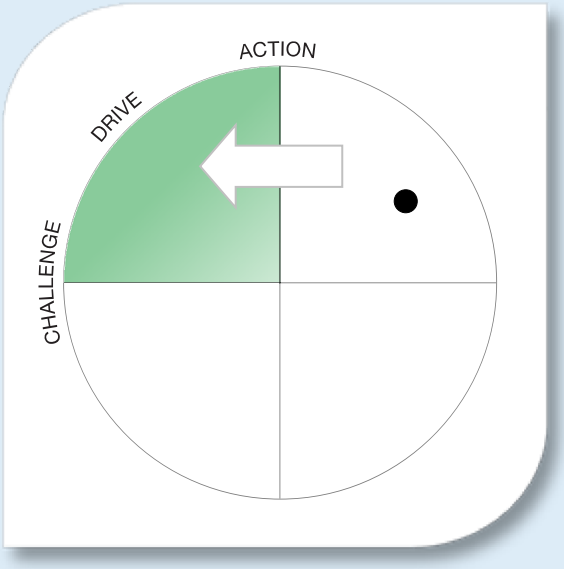
Employees with the D style are motivated to win, so they probably care more about the bottom line than how they get there. They're driven to achieve, probably more so than you, so they often thrive in competitive environments and can sometimes turn the most collaborative task into a contest. Furthermore, they share your desire to move quickly and want to make a big impact with innovative or daring ideas. In fact, they may be so focused on individual career growth that they disregard the needs of others, and you may have trouble understanding their challenging approach.

What **demotivates** the D style?

- Routine
- Foot dragging
- Being under tight supervision
- Having their authority questioned or overruled
- Feeling like their time is being wasted
- Having to wade through a lot of details

How does **conflict** affect the motivation of the D style?

- Employees with this style may embrace conflict as a way to create win-lose situations.
- They may be energized by the competitive aspects of conflict.
- They may waste energy dwelling on who is at fault.



How can you help create a **motivating environment** for the D style?

- Let them know the value they bring to the organization.
- Don't overlook opportunities to allow them to work independently.
- Let them control their work environment as much as possible.
- Orchestrate healthy competitions that will contribute to team success.
- Challenge them with concrete goals meant to stretch their abilities.
- Explain the big-picture, bottom-line purpose of new projects.

What's the best way for you to **recognize and reward** the D style?

- Reward their top performances with more responsibility and autonomy.
- Compliment them directly when their initiative and drive help the organization.
- Give them credit for their work and ideas that lead to team success.
- Offer them opportunities for advancement when they seek new challenges.

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MOTIVATION AND THE i STYLE

What Are the Motivational Needs of the i Style?

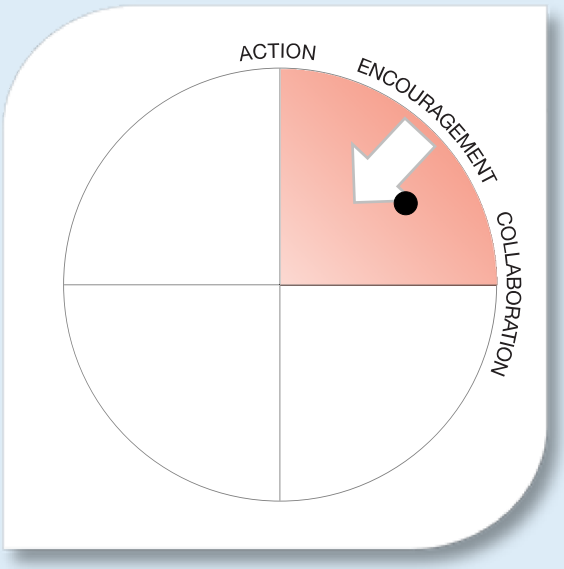
Employees with the i style look for high-energy environments where adventurous or groundbreaking ideas are valued. They're eager to collaborate, as you probably are, so they're likely to put a lot of energy into socializing and maintaining relationships. Because they like fun, vibrant settings, they often move quickly and indulge in a variety of tasks, and you probably don't have much trouble keeping up with their fast pace. Those with the i style are also motivated by public recognition, and like you, they appreciate a warm and encouraging environment.

What **demotivates** the i style?

- Being isolated from others
- Working in a reserved, slow-paced setting
- Having their contributions go unrecognized
- Performing routine or repetitive tasks
- Wading through a lot of details
- Working with pessimistic or critical people

How does **conflict** affect the motivation of the i style?

- Conflict may make them emotional or angry, and as a result may negatively affect their performance.
- They may take conflict personally, which could de-energize them.
- They may dwell on the conflict rather than focus on their tasks.



How can you help create a **motivating environment** for the i style?

- Let them collaborate with you and others.
- Encourage their positive energy and give them opportunities to express themselves.
- Limit the predictability and routine of their tasks when possible.
- Reinforce their optimism with your natural enthusiasm and energy.
- Give them opportunities to be in the limelight.
- Provide some time to socialize without compromising results.

What's the best way for you to **recognize and reward** the i style?

- Praise them publicly, making sure the whole team knows when they've accomplished something great.
- Let them know that others appreciate the energy and enthusiasm they consistently bring to the table.
- Reward them by giving them opportunities to shine.
- Recognize their contributions by recommending them for awards or advancement opportunities.

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MOTIVATION AND THE S STYLE

What Are the Motivational Needs of the S Style?

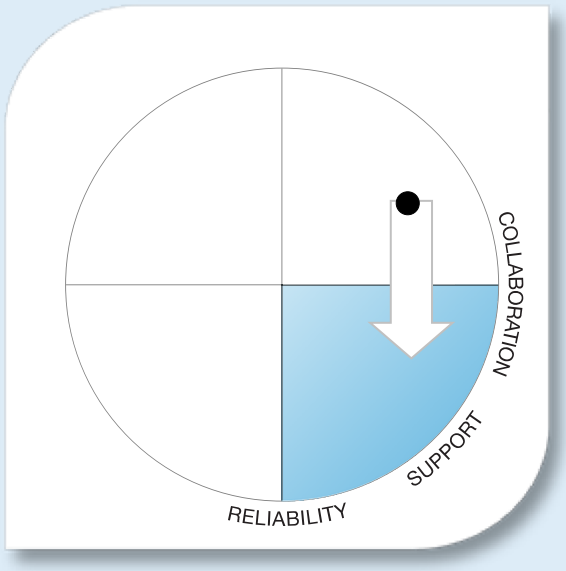
People with the S style prefer a calm, structured atmosphere where tension and conflict are rare. Like you, they tend to be supportive, and may even withhold their own opinions to accommodate or please other people. In addition, they like to connect with colleagues on a personal level by working in a collaborative setting, and you may appreciate their affinity for teamwork. Furthermore, they want to be seen as reliable and to have enough time to perform their duties without being rushed or stressed, which probably isn't as important to you.

What **demotivates** the S style?

- Competitive environments
- Having to change direction abruptly
- Being rushed into quick decisions
- Dealing with cold or argumentative people
- Being forced to improvise
- Being in chaotic situations

How does **conflict** affect the motivation of the S style?

- They may compromise on things they care about but remain frustrated beneath the surface.
- They may waste energy worrying that people are mad at them.
- They may become fearful about making mistakes, limiting their effectiveness or ability to take chances.



How can you help create a **motivating environment** for the S style?

- Avoid rushing them for results, which may require you to slow your pace at times.
- Let them collaborate with others, but don't push them to be more social than they want to be.
- Be clear about their tasks and responsibilities, and don't skip the specifics.
- Plan ahead to be able to give plenty of warning when changes are coming.
- Give them the structure and security they need to feel comfortable.
- Ask for their ideas, which they might not share without encouragement.

What's the best way for you to **recognize and reward** the S style?

- Reward their steady contributions to team success by making them feel like a vital part of the team.
- Give them more responsibility, and let them know that you trust them to deliver reliable results.
- Offer sincere praise, but avoid putting them in the limelight.
- Encourage them to consider advancement opportunities when you feel that they're ready, since they're unlikely to ask.

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MOTIVATION AND THE C STYLE

What Are the Motivational Needs of the C Style?

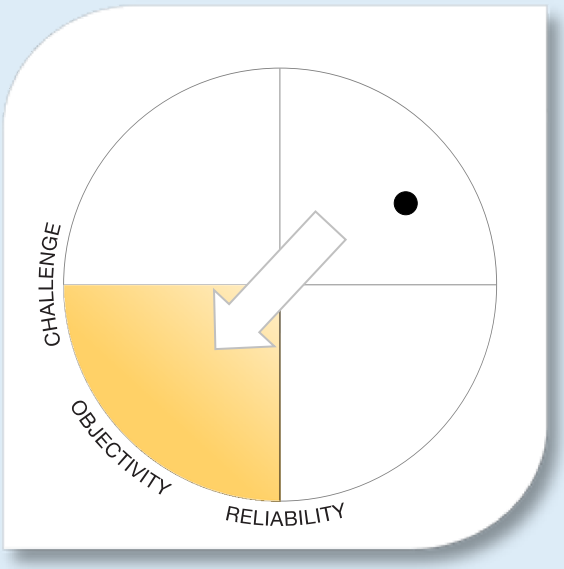
Employees with the C style look for an environment where they will have time to analyze ideas and ensure flawless outcomes. They want to produce work that's reliable, so they prefer to maintain a moderate pace and exercise a sense of caution, which isn't one of your top priorities. Because they tend to be even more objective than you are, they like to weigh all the options and gather all the facts before making decisions. Also, they want to master their responsibilities, so they often challenge ideas to ensure accuracy, an approach you probably don't share.

What **demotivates** the C style?

- Being required to work collaboratively
- Receiving vague or ambiguous directions
- Having to deal with strong displays of emotion
- Being forced to let errors slide
- Having to make quick decisions
- Being wrong

How does **conflict** affect the motivation of the C style?

- They may become resentful and unyielding, limiting their productivity.
- They may withdraw from the situation to avoid having to deal with emotional reactions.
- Their unexpressive manner may conceal a tendency to worry excessively.



How can you help create a **motivating environment** for the C style?

- Explain the purpose of tasks logically rather than enthusiastically.
- Encourage them to help define quality standards.
- Listen to their insights about projects or tasks, and avoid dominating conversations.
- Provide opportunities for independent work rather than focusing on collaboration.
- Convey your expectations clearly and specifically.
- Give them plenty of time to process information.

What's the best way for you to **recognize and reward** the C style?

- Compliment them privately by highlighting specific aspects of their performance that stand out.
- Thank them for the unique contributions they make by ensuring high-quality outcomes.
- Reward them by providing new opportunities to complete challenging projects independently.
- Encourage their growth by offering to help them build expertise in new areas of interest.

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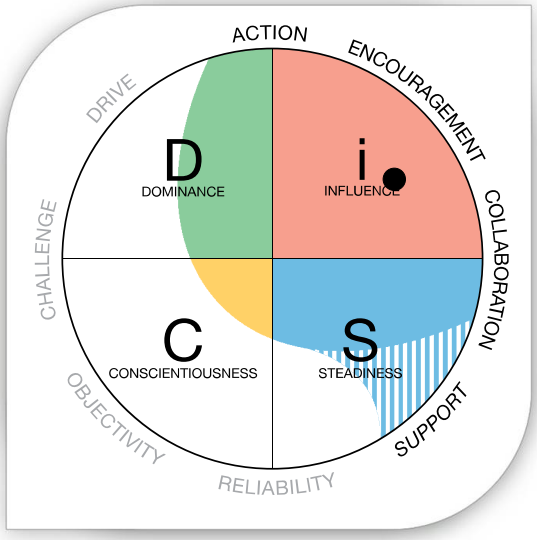
YOUR APPROACH TO DEVELOPING OTHERS

One of the most important but often overlooked areas of management is employee development. By development, we don't mean day-to-day direction on current job duties. Instead, we're talking about supporting employee's long-term professional growth by providing resources, environments, and opportunities that capitalize on their potential.

Certainly, your employees will need to work through those limitations that are significant obstacles to their growth. Research shows, however, that you'll be most effective as a manager if you can help your employees identify and build on their strengths, rather than trying to fix all of their weaknesses. Each manager has a natural approach to this development task, and your approach is described below.

Casey, you usually want the best for the people you manage, and this interest in their well-being often helps you address their development needs. Most likely, you're optimistic about people's abilities and encourage them to reach for their loftiest goals. When it comes to career growth, you may motivate people to take quick action and be creative as they find ways to use their strengths. And because you usually let people know that you're eager to help them develop, they probably feel comfortable approaching you with their questions and concerns. Overall, you find ways to give people confidence as they identify their talents and provide opportunities for them to showcase these talents.



Furthermore, unlike others with the i style, you also have an extra priority that might influence your approach to developing others. To you, developing others encompasses giving support and being there to assist people when they need it.

Your Development Approach

ADVANTAGES

- Encouraging creative or daring ideas for people's development
- Making yourself available for mentoring
- Boosting others' self-confidence with your belief in their abilities
- Pushing people to move quickly in their development
- Inspiring people to think big
- Taking the time to listen to people's real concerns

DISADVANTAGES

- Pushing people at a pace that doesn't allow them time to develop necessary skills
- Being unrealistically optimistic about some people's development options
- Failing to take a long-range view of people's development needs
- Putting too much emphasis on positive behaviors at the expense of addressing problems
- Failing to consider whether development plans are well-suited to the person
- Being too accepting when people don't quite meet objectives.

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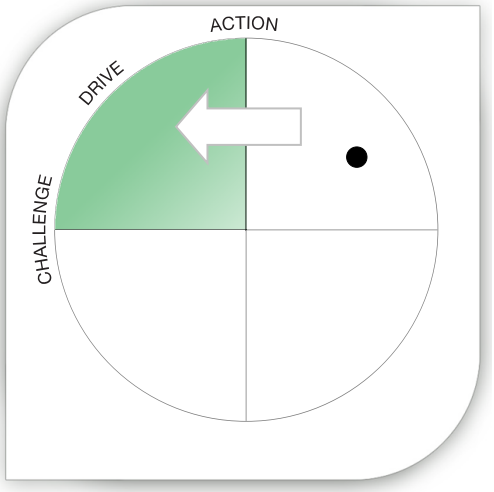
DEVELOPING YOUR "D" EMPLOYEES

Areas Where They Have Strong Potential

Consider ways that these employees and the organization can take full advantage of the following strengths:

- Willingness to take risks and challenge the status quo
- Comfort being in charge
- Confidence about their opinions
- Persistence through failure or tough feedback
- Competitive spirit and drive for results
- Ability to create a sense of urgency in others
- Comfort being direct or even blunt
- Restless motivation to take on new challenges
- Ability to find effective shortcuts
- Willingness to speak up about problems



Obstacles and Strategies in the Development Process

Drive

People with the D style are usually quite driven, so it may be important to ensure that their energy is channeled in the right direction. Otherwise, they may strive for their own goals and give less attention to the organization's needs. At times, you may need to rein them in and make sure their priorities align with those of the organization, which may require you to be more direct than is natural for you.

- Consider development opportunities that have the potential for impressive results.
- Be sure that they know the difference between individual and organizational goals.
- Encourage their ambition and autonomy, but be prepared to redirect their focus.

Action

Like you, people with the D style tend to move fast, so they may not believe they require any structure or long-term development plan. In your mutual zeal for rapid progress, the two of you may fail to plot out the details of their long-term growth. This is especially true if they are inexperienced or prone to make important decisions with very little information.

- Remember that they may insist on moving forward even without the necessary skill set.
- Help them slow down to think through their development path.
- Review the big picture and encourage them to come up with appropriate long-term goals.

Challenge

These individuals are more independent than you, and they may be strong-willed in pursuing their goals. As a result, they may challenge your leadership, especially if you are focused on collaborative efforts. Give them as much autonomy as you can without undermining your own authority, but don't allow them to avoid their responsibilities related to the group effort.

- Allow them to work independently to the degree that they don't damage team unity.
- Reassert your authority if necessary.
- Set up a system so they know when you are suggesting and when you are telling.

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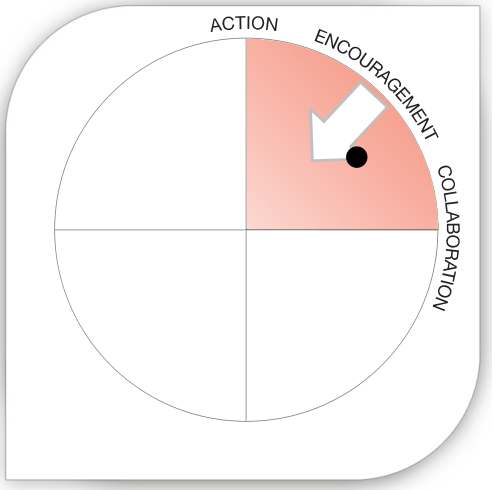
DEVELOPING YOUR "i" EMPLOYEES

Areas Where They Have Strong Potential

Consider ways that these employees and the organization can take full advantage of the following strengths:

- Ability to build a network of contacts
- Willingness to accept new ideas
- Interest in working with others
- Comfort taking the lead
- Persistence through optimism
- Tendency to create enthusiasm
- Ability to empathize with others
- Willingness to experiment with different methods
- Tendency to give praise and encouragement to others
- Ability to rally people around an idea



Obstacles and Strategies in the Development Process

Encouragement

People who share your i style want to know that they are doing a good job and are on the right development path, so they may appreciate your preference to focus on the positive while offering feedback. However, because you both tend to be optimistic, you may gloss over negative issues and ignore potential problems. Therefore, you may need to make sure that they understand which areas require improvement.

- Continue to be optimistic when assessing their development, but don't ignore problems.
- You may need to offer tougher feedback at times.
- Check to make sure they understand your feedback.

Action

Like you, these individuals are interested in fast-paced innovation, and they may avoid development opportunities that require in-depth analysis. Because you are equally likely to push for action, the two of you may come up with development plans that are vague or overly optimistic. Instead, it may be helpful to look at promising opportunities that might require more attention to detail.

- Encourage their spontaneity when appropriate.
- Point out the negative consequences of not taking the time to develop skills with deliberate effort.
- Avoid letting your mutual enthusiasm obscure important details or potential issues.

Collaboration

Like you, these individuals love working with other people, and this can be a great source of strength in their development. However, because you both value collaboration above individual accomplishment, the two of you may focus exclusively on collective efforts at the expense of personal goals. Remember that sometimes independent efforts are as important as teamwork when it comes to personal growth.

- Encourage them to pursue opportunities that involve working with others.
- Allow them to lead small groups.
- Remind them that their growth will also depend on independent work.

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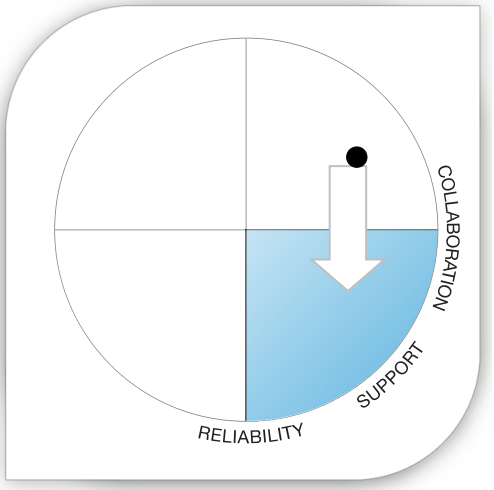
DEVELOPING YOUR "S" EMPLOYEES

Areas Where They Have Strong Potential

Consider ways that these employees and the organization can take full advantage of the following strengths:

- Ability to work with different types of people
- Interest in maintaining steady progress
- Tendency to be diplomatic
- Willingness to support team goals
- Ability to empathize with others
- Persistence to work on routine or highly detailed projects
- Tendency to follow through on commitments
- Ability to calm upset people
- Understanding of others' perspectives
- Willingness to be flexible to others' needs



Obstacles and Strategies in the Development Process

Support

While it's not typical for the i style, you tend to be supportive and offer the reassurance that people with the S style need. As a result, they probably appreciate the level of patience and consideration you extend to their development. Still, because you focus on people's emotional needs, you may not push them to reach beyond their comfort zones.

- Help them see the depth of their skills and abilities.
- Remind them that they have to focus on their own needs at times.
- Push them gently to grow and develop.

Reliability

They are dependable and stable. For this reason, they may feel that your development plans are too risky or adventurous. In addition, they may want more structure from you when it comes to laying out their professional future.

- Encourage them to look beyond the risk in bold development plans to see the opportunities.
- Give them time to warm up to ideas that involve a lot of change.
- Work with them to create specific development plans.

Collaboration

Like you, people with the S style are comfortable working with others, but their focus on collaboration may be at the expense of individual opportunities for growth. And since you both want harmonious relationships, you may have trouble providing tough feedback. Trying to avoid hurting their feelings may deprive them of constructive criticism that could help them down the line.

- Encourage them to pursue collaborative opportunities while furthering their own development.
- Show them that they have the strength to work autonomously.
- Offer constructive feedback when necessary.

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DEVELOPING YOUR "C" EMPLOYEES

Areas Where They Have Strong Potential

Consider ways that these employees and the organization can take full advantage of the following strengths:

- Insistence on quality
- Ability to look at ideas logically
- Comfort with studying the specifics
- Interest in maintaining error-free work
- Ability to pinpoint potential problems
- Persistence in analyzing solutions
- Willingness to work alone
- Tendency to avoid letting personal feelings interfere with work
- Ability to exercise caution and manage risks
- Interest in developing a systematic approach

Obstacles and Strategies in the Development Process

Objectivity

These individuals use logic to guide their actions, so they may believe that your more intuitive approach to development is misguided or sloppy. Because of their interest in progressing rationally, they may prefer to work in a "cave" when planning their development, and they may discount team unity and other people's feelings.

- Steer them toward analytical development opportunities.
- Respect their independence, but remind them to fill you in on their progress.
- Avoid forcing them to socialize, but reinforce the importance of teamwork.

Reliability

People with the C style want development opportunities that are clear and well planned, so they may reject your tendency to keep moving forward, leaving the specifics for later. Further, they may be less interested in your daring or innovative ideas for development, even though playing it safe isn't likely to lead to growth.

- Put development opportunities into a clear, well-organized framework.
- Encourage them to look beyond safe and predictable development plans.
- Ensure that they see the drawbacks of playing it safe.

Challenge

These individuals are often skeptical, so they may probe ideas for flaws even after others have accepted them. They frequently question solutions, which may be frustrating as you work with them to create a development path. And their tendency to say "no" may come across as dismissive or resistant.

- Expect that you'll have to back up your ideas with evidence if you want buy-in.
- Hold them accountable if they question your ideas in a disrespectful way.
- Give them time to think over your suggestions before making final decisions together.

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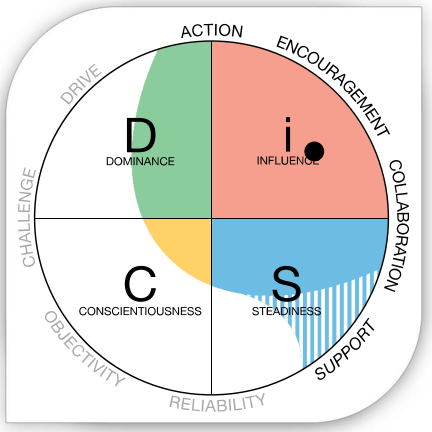
HOW YOUR MANAGER SEES YOU

One of the most important but often overlooked aspects of management is sometimes called "managing up." This refers to effectively working with and influencing your own manager. Understanding how your manager sees you is important, but sometimes difficult. This page provides insight into how your manager might see you.



▶ Encouraging

Casey, since you have an i style, you probably come across as enthusiastic and people-oriented. Your manager may appreciate your tendency to inspire people to keep a positive outlook. On the other hand, because you're sometimes overly optimistic, some managers may be concerned that you let your emotions cloud your judgment, while others may not identify with your emphasis on a lively work environment.

- Some managers may see you as unrealistically optimistic.
- Your manager may prioritize facts over passion.

▶ Active

Many managers will appreciate that you get going quickly on tasks and projects. Furthermore, they may like how your energetic push toward new opportunities gives the organization momentum. On the other hand, some managers may see your speed as sloppy or reckless, while others may worry that your excitement could cause you to overlook other important factors.

- Your manager may see shortcuts as evidence of sloppy work.
- Some managers may find your more adventurous ideas to be impractical or unrealistic.

▶ Collaborative

Because of your emphasis on teamwork, your manager probably feels comfortable that you'll gather a lot of input to create stronger solutions. Many managers may also appreciate your openness to ideas even if they didn't originate with you. However, your consistently collaborative approach may lead some managers to think that you're more interested in the group process than in getting things done.

- Your manager may think that you have trouble staying on task.
- Managers who stress independent work may want you to act decisively without involving others.

▶ Supportive

In addition, you tend to be supportive, which isn't typical of the i style, and many managers may see your willingness to help as a great asset in making their jobs less stressful. However, some managers may think you have trouble holding people accountable for subpar performances.

- Your manager may see you as too lenient at times with people who are underperforming.
- Some managers may see you as too willing to compromise on goals rather than pressure others.

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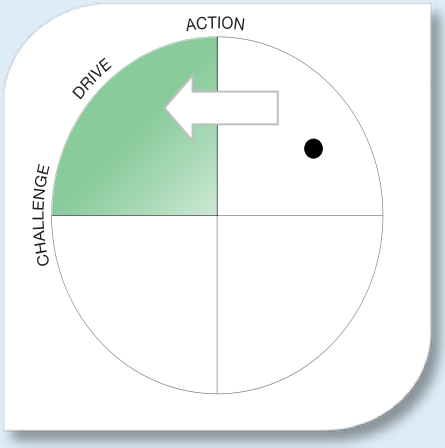
WORKING WITH "D" MANAGERS

Most of us would like to understand our own manager a bit better. If your manager tends toward D, here are some insights for working more effectively together.

Their Priorities & Preferences

Managers with the D style put a strong emphasis on drive and are active in pursuing bottom-line results. They can be demanding and blunt and won't hesitate to voice their skepticism. Overall, they respond best to people who can quickly help them achieve success.

- Unlike you, their drive for results may cause them to overlook people's feelings or make compromises to quality.
- Like you, they prioritize action and want to keep progressing at a rapid pace.
- Unlike you, they tend to openly challenge the status quo and pressure others to meet their high standards.



Advocating & Getting Buy-In

Managers with the D style want to see concrete results as fast as possible, so you may get buy-in by showing how your plan will quickly affect the bottom line. And because they respect confidence, your natural self-assurance might help your proposals get serious consideration. However, if you present your ideas enthusiastically without illustrating the substance, these managers may dismiss them as frivolous. Like you, they want to keep things moving quickly and may become frustrated when something or someone slows progress. Avoid unnecessary details, but be ready with facts in case they challenge your assumptions. Furthermore, they want to feel in control, so show respect for their leadership by offering them an ownership stake in the solution.

- Keep the focus on the bottom line.
- Project confidence in your ideas, but only when it's genuine.
- Avoid coming across as overly enthusiastic or passionate.

Dealing with Conflict

Managers with the D style can become competitive in conflict, creating win-lose scenarios in which compromise is seen as a sign of weakness. They aren't inclined to gloss over differences or avoid confrontation. This is probably quite a bit different than how you handle conflict, since you prioritize friendly relationships. When working with these managers, be careful not to brush past the issues. They're probably more frank than is comfortable for you, but remember not to take it personally. State your points objectively without getting defensive.

- Avoid viewing their directness as a personal attack.
- Don't gloss over disagreements just to keep things friendly.
- Keep the discussion focused on the issue at hand.

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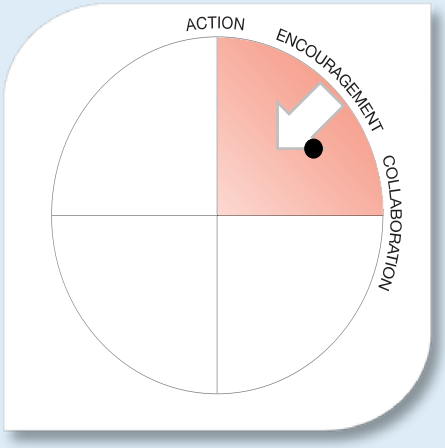
WORKING WITH "i" MANAGERS

Most of us would like to understand our own manager a bit better. If your manager tends toward i, here are some insights for working more effectively together.

Their Priorities & Preferences

Managers with the i style tend to be energetic and encourage others to do their best. Overall, they want to lead a fast-paced but friendly team, and they will likely respond best to people who like to create an optimistic team spirit.

- Like you, they give people recognition and celebrate group victories.
- Like you, they prefer to work with others and prioritize teamwork.
- Like you, they focus on action and move quickly while striving for forward progress.



Advocating & Getting Buy-In

Managers who share your i style look for cooperation and want to know how your plans will affect other people. Like you, they're interested in finding ways to interact, and they believe collaboration leads to better outcomes. To gain their buy-in, show them how team members can work together to reach your goals. Use your energetic approach to show them that your solution has the power to invigorate people, but avoid exaggerated claims that might mask legitimate flaws. Furthermore, they share your desire for fast movement and groundbreaking solutions, so lay out the big picture, and assure them that things will happen quickly once you have their buy-in.

- Emphasize how your ideas can quickly energize people.
- Discuss the effect of your ideas on other people.
- Refrain from overestimating an idea's true potential.

Dealing with Conflict

Managers who share your i style want to maintain friendly relationships. However, self-expression is very important to them, so they may demand to be heard in a conflict situation. Because you have a similar approach, you and an "i" manager may say harsh things to one another that are difficult to take back. Furthermore, you both may have trouble letting things go later. Therefore, when things get tense, express your concern for their feelings and a desire to work through the conflict quickly but thoroughly, and avoid personal attacks. Let them know that a disagreement now doesn't mean a poor relationship down the road.

- Avoid engaging in any personal attacks
- Acknowledge the importance of everyone's feelings.
- Make it clear that your relationship is still strong.

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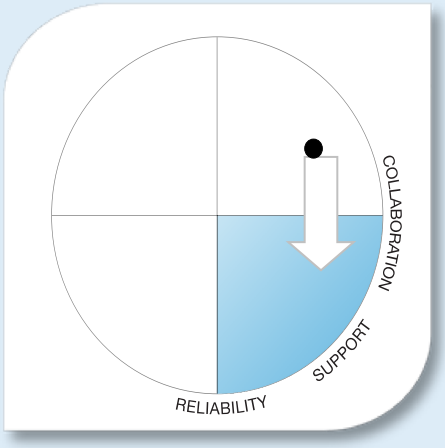
WORKING WITH "S" MANAGERS

Most of us would like to understand our own manager a bit better. If your manager tends toward S, here are some insights for working more effectively together.

Their Priorities & Preferences

Managers with the S style tend to be accommodating and dependable. Overall, they want to lead a team in a calm setting where tension is rare, and they will likely respond best to people who are friendly team players.

- Like you, they emphasize supporting others and have empathy for people's needs.
- Like you, they prioritize collaboration and want people to work together harmoniously.
- Unlike you, they often dodge change in order to maintain a dependable setting.



Advocating & Getting Buy-In

Managers with the S style want to see how your ideas can contribute to steady progress and reliable results. They are less spontaneous than you tend to be and would need time to prepare for any major changes that you might suggest. While they'll probably let you lead the discussion, remember that excessive enthusiasm is unlikely to help you gain their buy-in. Because they often weigh both sides of a decision, they may want more time to consider your proposal. Furthermore, like you, they're interested in collaboration and team unity. Capitalize on this mutual interest by specifying how your solution can create opportunities to bring the group together. And remember that if the plan feels disorganized, you may not earn their needed support. Present your ideas as clearly as you can, and be ready with details to address their concerns.

- Refrain from overwhelming them with your enthusiasm.
- Lay out your plan in a step-by-step manner.
- Emphasize how your idea helps people.

Dealing with Conflict

Managers with the S style want to avoid conflict whenever possible, so they may gloss over differences or even deny that there is a problem. Unlike others with the i style, you share their priority on support and also dislike addressing issues head-on. You may need to take a more direct approach to clear up disagreements. Don't assume their silence means the matter is resolved. Express your concern for their feelings and a desire to work through the conflict quickly but thoroughly. If you allow them to bury their feelings, resentment may build.

- Address the situation directly rather than masking your differences.
- Don't assume that their silence means they agree with you.
- Follow up to make sure the issue is resolved.

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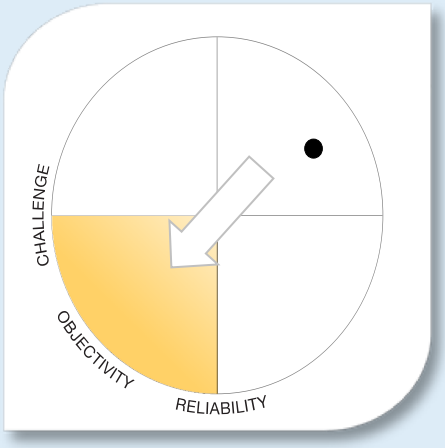
WORKING WITH "C" MANAGERS

Most of us would like to understand our own manager a bit better. If your manager tends toward C, here are some insights for working more effectively together.

Their Priorities & Preferences

Managers with the C style put a strong emphasis on logic and maintaining a stable environment. Overall, they want to lead by setting high standards, and they will likely respond best to people who share their concern for high-quality outcomes.

- Unlike you, they spend a lot of time on objective analysis to ensure accuracy.
- Unlike you, they tend to move cautiously in order to deliver a reliable outcome.
- Unlike you, they tend to show open skepticism for ideas that aren't backed up by facts.



Advocating & Getting Buy-In

Managers with the C style want to see how your ideas can lead to a high-quality solution. Because they want to anticipate potential issues or complications, they're likely to ask a lot of questions. For this reason, your big-picture focus may fail to get their buy-in. If you want them to act, prove your competence by utilizing facts and logic. Furthermore, they're more interested in reliability than speed, so you may need to slow down and show them that you've thought through all of the consequences of your plan. They're unlikely to respond well to overly enthusiastic presentations. In fact, if you come across as too passionate, they're more likely to view your efforts as chaotic and unsafe. By giving them the information they want and the time to process it, you will be much more likely to get them on your side.

- Lay out your plan clearly and avoid glossing over the specifics.
- Be ready to provide all the information they need to reach a decision.
- Refrain from overwhelming them with your enthusiasm.

Dealing with Conflict

Because managers with the C style view conflict as a disagreement over who is correct, they may avoid direct aggression and remain objective instead. If emotions begin to run high, however, they may withdraw or refuse to discuss the matter further. You tend to gloss over differences, but if forced to confront the situation, you may become emotional. In such cases, they may not understand your need to express yourself. Therefore, you may need to focus more on facts to make sure you hear their side of the story. Don't insist on immediate resolution since they may need time to process. State your position factually and give them time to present their side.

- Support your opinions with logic and facts.
- Refrain from making emotional appeals.
- Give them space to process before confronting the issues.

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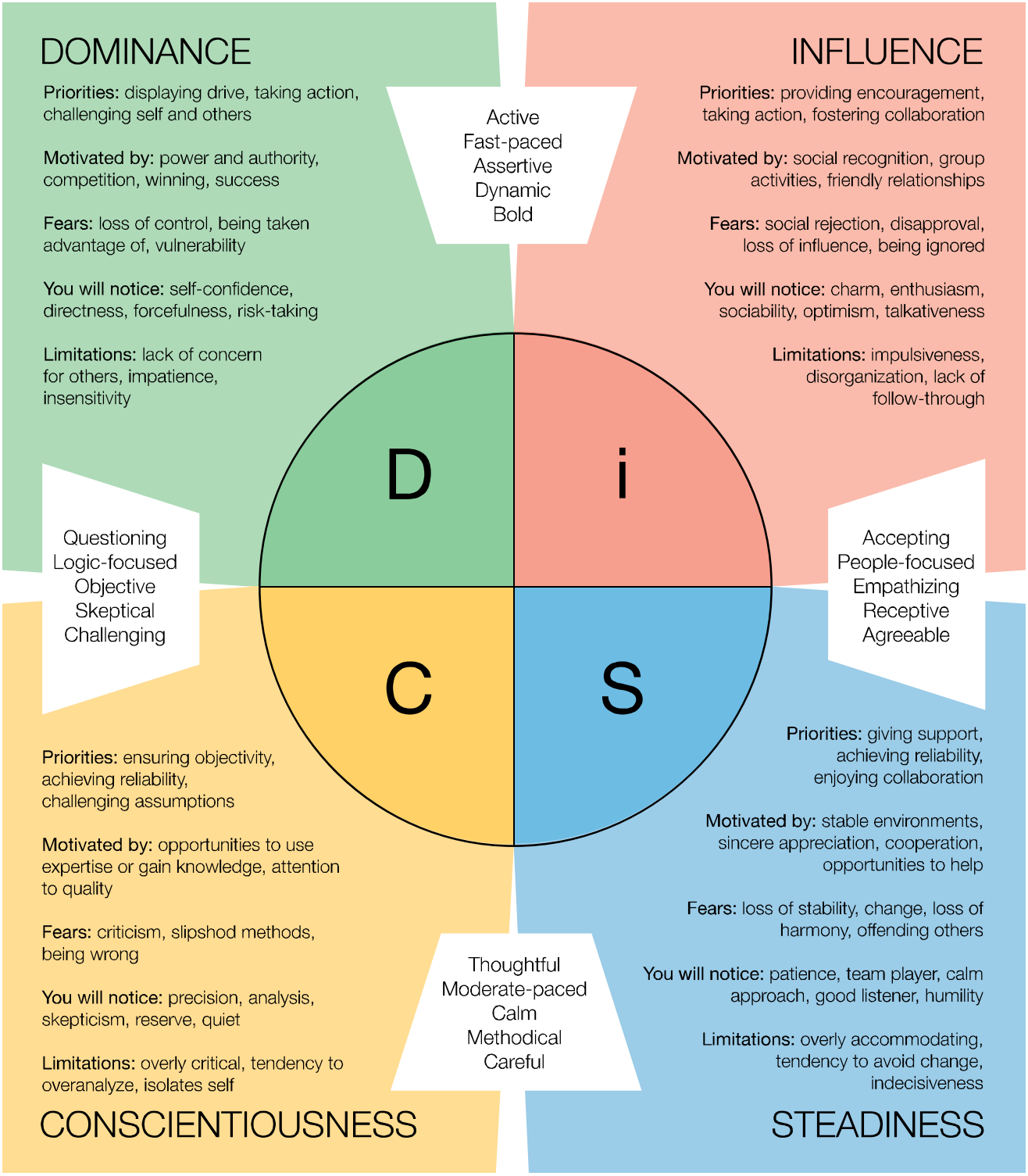
APPENDIX: OVERVIEW OF THE DiSC® STYLES

The graphic below provides a snapshot of the four basic DiSC® styles.



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