

My personality type is ESTJ (Extrovert, Sensing, Thinking, and Judging). I have tested my personality type twice, each time producing the same results. Last semester, as part of an Introduction to Management course at UT, I took an online MBTI test. After reviewing the MBTI characteristics listed on mbtityday.com and personalitypage.com, I do agree with my personality type characterization. In agreement with the personality descriptions, I am practical, traditional, and organized. In addition, the MBTI correctly predicts that I like to be in charge and am good at organizing and running activities.

In the natural energy category, I am definitely an extrovert. I enjoy meeting new people, need social interaction, and develop ideas by discussion. In general I like variety and action, and enjoy fast-paced jobs. However, I don't think I would describe myself as one to "act first, think later." I am a planner and am always thinking ahead. I tend to write things down and organize my thoughts before doing something complicated.

The "sensing" side of my personality also shows through. I agree that I am a very practical, realistic person, and I prefer to do things step-by-step. Although I would consider myself a stickler for details, I am not sure that I would present the details first before presenting the "big picture," as the MBTI predicts. I like to see things in context, as a whole.

I am also in agreement that my personality reflects the "thinking" characteristics as well. I am a very logical and task oriented person. I am good at organizing tasks that need to be accomplished on a project, as I am currently doing as the team leader for a C-9 microgravity experiment. I also am able to give objective, critical analysis without letting feelings get in the way. I tell it like it is, and can actually be rather blunt sometimes.

Finally, the judging characterization of my personality is dead-on. Again, I focus on completing tasks and am a planner. I also like the feeling of accomplishment when finishing a project or task. However, I do not think that I make decisions quickly or brashly as the MBTI predicts. I will often consider a decision for a long time, weighing the advantages and disadvantages of the choices before taking action.

I asked Brent Minchew to review my personality description as stated on personalitypage.com and mbtitoday.com. He was the project manager for my senior design project last semester, and because of our close work together, he has a good understanding of my personality. He replied that the majority of the personality characteristics were “spot-on” except for the description that my personality lends itself to being “forceful in implementing plans.” Brent said I am eager and enthusiastic to implement, but not forceful.

After reading the JPL paper by Jansma and Derro, I do believe I fit within the JPL typing for systems engineers. Similar to the systems engineers cited in the paper, I consider myself a generalist and I exhibit most of the same personal behaviors. For other similarities, I am achievement oriented and have the ability to view the big picture. Although my MBTI personality type does not exactly match any of the seven personalities exhibited by the systems engineers tested, my personality type is within the guardian temperament, one of the two temperaments displayed most by systems engineers. This discrepancy may be caused by a sample size of systems engineers that was too small. The paper does not state the number of systems engineers tested to

determine the most common personality types. If a larger sample were used, my personality type might be included.

My Star Trek character is Geordi LaForge. The online questionnaire states: "You work well with others and often fix problems quickly. Your romantic relationships are often bungled."