

# Library Instruction Geared to the Personality of Engineering Students

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# Myers-Briggs

- Introversion/Extraversion (I/E)
- Sensing/Intuition (S/N)
- Thinking/Feeling (T/F)
- Judging/Perceiving (J/P)

# Engineering Students

- 64-75 percent Thinking
- 52-61 percent Judging
- Most common whole type: ISTJ (13-20 percent)

Quiet, serious, earn success by thoroughness and dependability. Practical, matter-of-fact, realistic and responsible. Decide logically what should be done and work toward it steadily regardless of distractions. Take pleasure in making everything orderly and organized—their work, their home, their life. Value traditions and loyalty.

# Appealing to Thinking Types

- Lecture
- Present information logically and consistently
- Challenge them with problems

# Appealing to Judging Types

- Provide an outline

# Appealing to Intuitive Types

- Mention the principles (e.g., Boolean logic)
- Have some big organizing categories
- Step back from details to present the big picture

# Appealing to Sensing Types

- Provide examples for generalizations that are made
- Relate concepts such as information literacy to students' prior experience

# Appealing to ISTJs

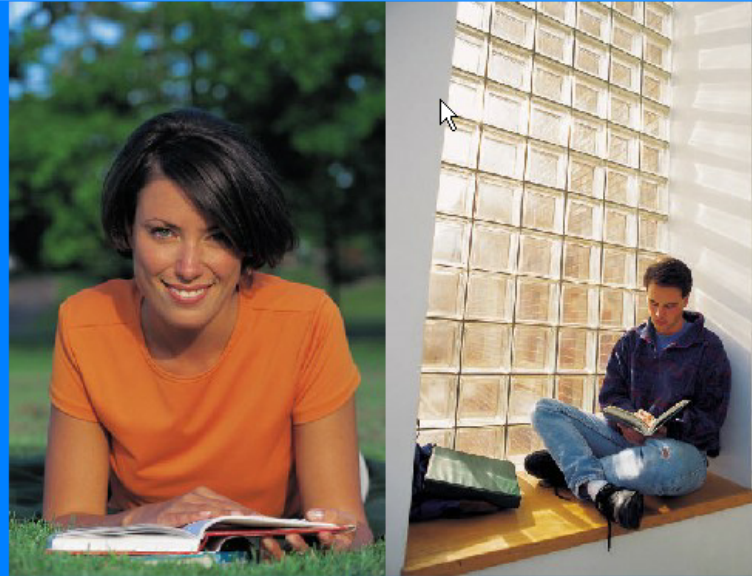
- Give them time to reflect before speaking
- Consider tutorials



# Experimental Tutorial: Jo-Ann and John go to the Library

- Story-based tutorial to appeal to students' experience
- Sensing detail
- Pros and Cons to appeal to analytical abilities
- Linear, like videodisc instruction

# Realistic Story Format



Jo-Ann and John Go to the Library

Jo-Ann and John are typical engineering students at UT. They have a demanding course load and work as well. They do not have time to waste. Here is what happened when they had to do library research for an engineering class.



# Pros and Cons

Choice #1: Search an index database such as Compendex, then find the article in an online subscription or print subscription held by the Library

## Pros:

1. Jo-Ann and John were able to read about a number of articles from many different journals on their topic, "tissue engineering".
2. They were not limited to reading about articles in journals from a single publishing company.
3. They learned about resources appropriate for future engineering courses (Compendex and the Library Catalog), and which they could even use as professionals.
4. They got a good introduction to some of the steps usually involved in finding information, such as finding out what has been published on a topic and locating these publications.
5. They would have been able to get to Compendex outside of the Library, either on campus or off-campus using their NetID and password.

## Cons:

1. For journals to which there was no online subscription, Jo-Ann and John would have had to find the print or microform journal.
2. It was complicated to remember all the ins and outs of library locations and search methodology. In fact, they even ran into some problems that Jeanine did not tell them about beforehand.

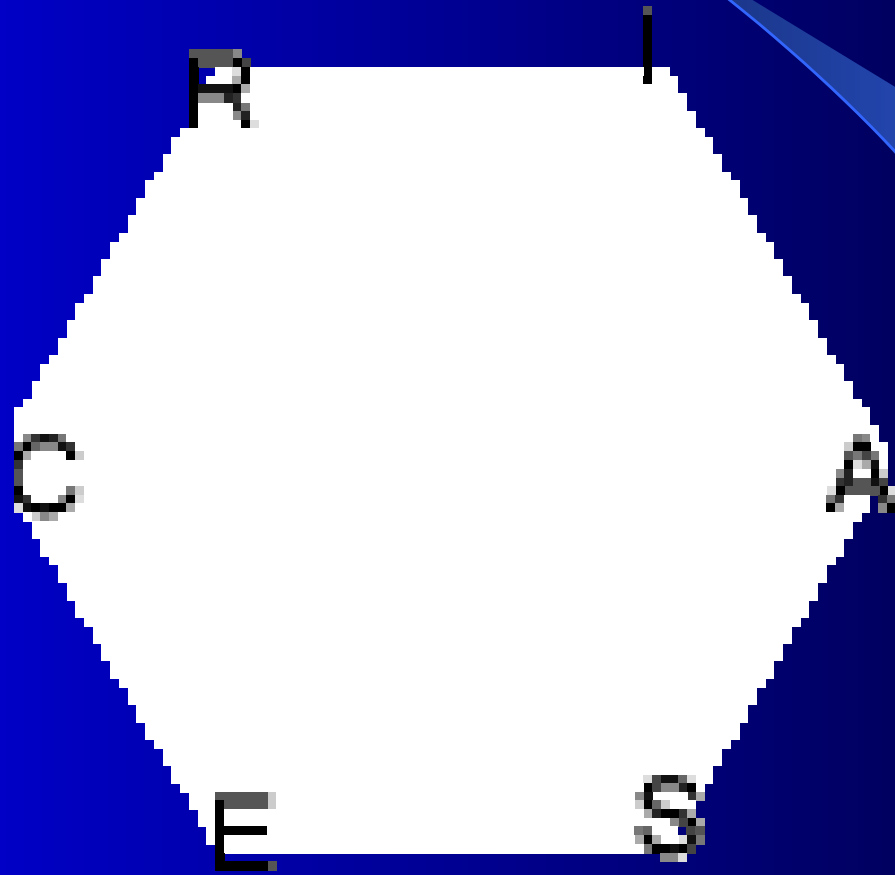


recommended choice

# Holland's Vocational Personality System

- Realistic
- Investigative
- Artistic
- Social
- Enterprising
- Conventional

# Holland Hexagon



# Realistic Engineering Students

Emotionally stable and reliable

Practical, thrifty, and persistent

Shy, modest

Likely to avoid being the center of attention

Uncomfortable talking about themselves

Inclined to take physical risks

Likely to maintain traditional values

Slow to accept radical new ideas

# Appealing to Realistic Types

- Mention prices of engineering journals
- Don't embarrass them
- Competitions

# Investigative Engineering Students

Independent, self-motivated

Reserved, introspective

Analytical, curious

Task oriented (becoming absorbed in the job)

Confident of scholarly and intellectual abilities

Original, creative

Nonconformist values and attitudes



# Appealing to Investigative Types

- Analytical questions that involve critical thinking
- Problem-based inquiry
- Don't single them out

# Engineering Professors

- More Intuitive (62-77 percent) and Thinking (82-84 percent) than Engineering Students
- Holland types: Investigative and Artistic in one sample

# Engineering Professors

- Highly conceptual and logical; may not be detail-oriented.
- Librarians may want to discuss theoretical concepts to be discussed, such as information literacy

# Librarians

- ISTJs 17 percent
- Introversions 63 percent
- Intuition 59 percent
- Thinking 58-69 percent
- Judging 66 percent
- Holland **Artistic** types

# Artistic Librarians

Independent, nonconforming

Impulsive, expressive

Romantic, free-spirited

Intuitive, complicated

Sensitive, emotional

Drawn to beauty and aesthetic qualities

# Implications from Librarians' Personality Types

- Expressive skills help in teaching
- May have different values than engineering students
- Should try not to be sensitive in response to critically-minded engineering students and faculty