

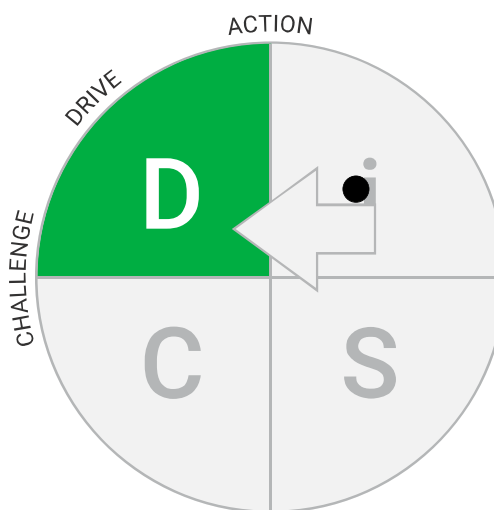
Working with D Style Managers

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 AND 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 AND 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.

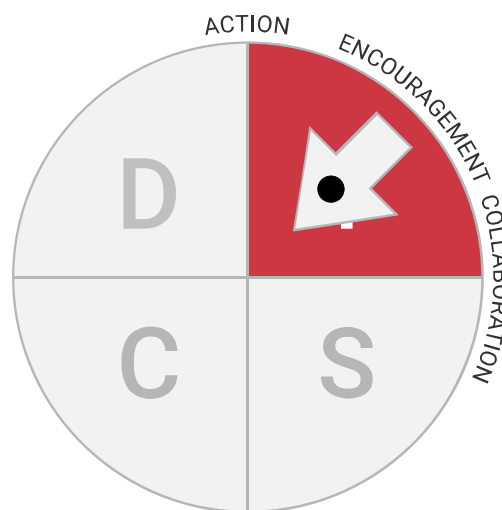
Working with i Style Managers

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 AND 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 AND 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.

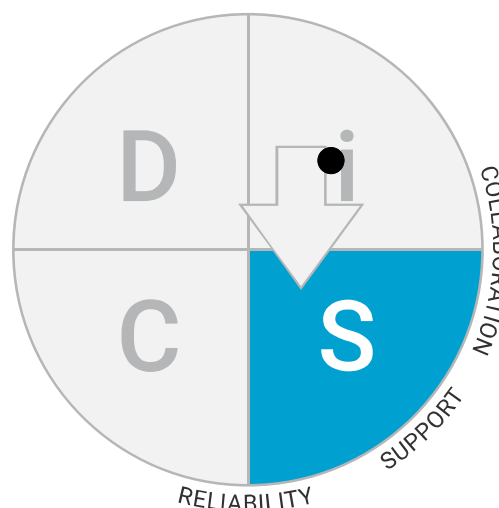
Working with S Style Managers

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 AND 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.

- Unlike you, they emphasize people's feelings and are more concerned with maintaining relationships than you tend to be.
- 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 AND 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. Because you may also dislike addressing issues head-on, you might 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.

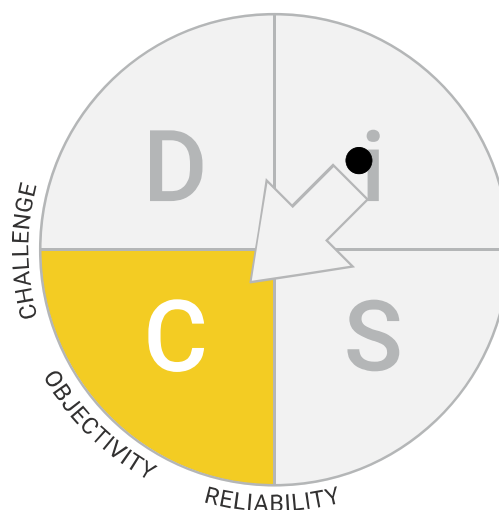
Working with C Style Managers

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 AND 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 AND 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.

Overview of DiSC®

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

