

# My Self Assessment and Career Goal

This paper not only reflects certain personality traits of mine that were discovered by “The Golden Personality Type Profiler” by John P. Golden, Ed.D, but also demonstrates ways that I can use them to reach my career goal. I will start by explaining some of the results that I received from the personality test and why I believe they fit into the career of my choosing. I will go over the path that I have chosen for my career, explaining the job responsibilities involved and the pre-requisite requirements that must be met before entering the job market. I shall also list which educational requirements are or are not required. Afterwards, I will list the future outlook for this career, which will include the potential for advancement, typical annual salaries, and typical benefits. Finally, I will summarize the correlations discussed within my concluding remarks and provide a list of resources that I used to write this paper.

## Self-Assessment

The results of my self-assessment test described my personality as being of the *INFP* type. The acronym stands for *Introverting*, *Intuiting*, *Feeling*, and *Perceiving*. *Introverting* is said to be where I focus my energy. *Intuiting* is how I gather information. *Feeling* is how I make decisions, and *perceiving* is how I approach life. Of these four characteristics, my strongest attributes were deemed to be feeling and perceiving. I believe that both play a big role in why I’m interested in a career in the film industry. *Perceiving* is described as how I approach life, where it is said I prefer spontaneity, limited structure, and have a tendency to hold off decision making until more information is available. It also states I prefer having a flexible, emergent lifestyle. Some of these qualities could be read differently. Based on my *INFP* description, people could view me as a person lacking in discipline, who runs away from responsibility, and keeps her head constantly in the clouds, when her feet should be firmly planted on the ground. I say who cares! If it leads to a less boring life style than that of a person who is stuck behind a desk all day repeating the same routine day-in, and day-out, than I am not one to disagree. As an *INFP*, my hallmark trait is creativity, and I am a true perfectionist when it comes to my work. I believe whole heartedly in the assessment’s suggestion that I see anything I do as an extension of who I am. I like when I get to the end of a project that I put a lot of time and effort into and was completely passionate about that turns out well. I want people to know that was my work. I guess you could say I like the recognition from a job well done, but doesn’t everybody. Granted, I am human, and I too make mistakes. However, I believe your best work can only come from the lessons you learned from those mistakes, so I never completely disregard them. Another one of the traits typical for *INFP*’s that I believe will be resourceful to me in the film industry is having no trouble when asked to shift gears from one task or assignment to another, or even to a new technique for that matter. Many people find this hard to do, but I on the other hand have no issues with it. In the assessment, it also states that I have a powerful sense of faithfulness, duty, and commitment to the people and causes that surround me. I take my obligations very seriously and enforce them with my sense of morality. I believe this to be true. I will stand by any project I believe in and give people my all, and expect the same in return. Whatever field I choose to go into, my *INFP* style says it will be marked by my sincere enthusiasm, which was born of my deep commitment to my calling.

## Career Choice

My aimed target point is to become a Film Director. I believe that I have many personality traits that fit well with this career choice. All I need is the correct training to give me the knowledge and practice to advance in such a career. With more training and experience, I believe that I will have the confidence and capability to survive in today’s ever growing, and competitive market.

## Job Responsibilities

Specific tasks and responsibilities of a Film Director include things, such as choosing set locations, determining how the scene/s will be shot in those specific settings, and collaborating with

producers to hire crewmembers (i.e. set designers, costume designers, makeup artists, cinematographers, etc.) It is important for directors to have a keen eye for detail and be incredibly creative in order to think of interesting scenes and transfer what they have mentally envisioned onto the “big screen.” They must collaborate with film and sound editors during post-production, while the films are being edited and the soundtracks are being added. Good communication skills are imperative because they have to explain to the actor/s how to approach a certain scene so rehearsals and takes are minimized. Directors are also the ones to hold auditions for a part/s, and are also usually directly involved in the negotiations revolving around the actor/s contracts. Compiling a list of cue words and phrases during performances, as well as scripts, program notes, and any other material related to the production is also a key assignment for the director. It is important for them to go through and approve all equipment and materials that are required for the production, making sure everything is accounted for and ready for filming. It is very important once they start filming to review the film daily, checking on the progress so they can make plans for future scenes they have to film. Once the film has come along, they will need to cut and edit the film in order to integrate component parts into desired sequences. With all of these tasks you might think that a Director would not usually have much of a life outside of the film he’s working on, and you would probably be right. The hours are often long and irregular. Evening and weekends are usually spent working as well. They constantly work under pressure in order to make their requested deadlines, but they do have help. They usually hire people to work directly under them to assume some of their roles. He/she assigns these employees with the title of 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director and 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Director, and there is also the Production Assistant that assists the 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director by helping out in the production office, changing out reels, running errands, etc.

### **Job Requirements**

As a Director you are not required to have any specific degree, however, having a degree appears to be helpful. An interesting find for me was the statistics tracking the highest level of education obtained between 25 and 44 for Film Directors employed within the US. The percentage of Directors that earned less than a high school diploma was 0.8%. Those who earned their high school diploma or equivalent comprised 6.7%, while those with some college amounted to 15.4%, but the number with only an Associate’s degree is actually smaller (6.9%). Statistically speaking, it seems that an aspiring Director profits the most by earning a Bachelor’s degree, as more than half of all those reported have achieved such a certificate. While a significant number of Directors possess even higher level degrees, 12.7% with Master’s degrees and another 2.8% with Ph.D.’s, the diminishing returns, likely suggest that the additional academic conquests are not as critical to becoming successful in the field. Because of this, I believe that achieving a Bachelor’s degree will be a must for me if I am to give myself a good running start and be able to keep up with future competition within the field. In my research, I have found that most community colleges and universities offer some type of film program. However, if attending a community college you will want to check to make sure the university you plan to transfer to will accept your transfer credits. In Utah, I know that Salt Lake Community College offers an Associate’s degree in Film Production with the possibility to transfer to the University of Utah, where they offer a BA in Arts pertaining to Media and Film. If you want to continue your studies beyond a BA, the U of U also offers an MA degree in Film Production. It could also be advantageous for a Director to complete other career training if college isn’t in the cards. Places that offer just this are schools such as Full Sail in Florida, NYFA in NYC and LA, and a personal favorite of mine is the Kaskeline Filmakademie located in Berlin, Deutschland. Places like this offer the opportunity for people to learn how the industry works, and receive hands on experience and make your own short movies in a matter of months, not years.

### **Job Outlook, Advancement, and Benefits**

The employment growth within the film industry is expected to ascend as fast as the average for any other occupation. The competition for these positions is extremely stiff, although many tend to drop out of the running early due to insufficient monetary compensation and personal unhappiness stemming from long and stressful work schedules, which are typically necessary when working as an aspiring

Director. Unless of course you're Steven Spielberg, in which case you have nothing to worry about. This occupation seems to be on the rise though. It is expected to grow 11 percent from 2008 to 2018 which is just as fast as the current average pertaining to all other occupations. Also, since there is a rising demand for U.S. films around the world, a global rise in employment opportunities for actors, producers, and directors will likely provide even more job growth for the industry. In 2008, the highest annual wages reported for a director in the United States was \$166,400. The median annual wage was \$64,430. Salaries, hours of work, and other working conditions are usually settled between the producers and the unions representing workers. The union usually just determines the minimum salaries, but beyond that it is up to the director to try to negotiate their wages.

The potential for advancement within the film industry is present. A good initial position for an aspiring Director would most be a PA – production assistant. As with most other careers, once you get your foot in the door it is then important to work extremely hard and put your all into your position so those in positions of power can see that you have the type of dedication it takes to succeed. Along the way, an eventual Director typically works their way up to 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Director, then 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director, and Casting Director, before finally getting the chance to direct a film. At any time you can of course skip a lot of these steps if interested in Documentary film making, because you can essentially Produce and Direct these yourself, so long as you have the equipment and don't plan on hiring anyone.

Depending on which person you ask, this career could have the benefits that aren't worth having, or benefits that are so good you took the job only for that reason; forget that it doesn't pay a dime. Such things are places you get to go, people you get to meet, and parties you get to attend. Most of the regular benefits come from being part of a union. For those who are allowed in, there is the DGA – Directors Guild of America. For individuals just starting out you will most likely be considered a non-union worker. I advise anyone to look into different unions, and speak with your employers to discuss the possibility of joining one with their help. The union provides securities not afforded to non-union workers, who can be let go at any time and are promised nothing. It also puts a certain percentage of overhead towards health, dental, and possibly vacation time.

## **Conclusion**

I believe I have the courage to succeed in this career because, as an *INFP*, I am driven to do my best at any task I undertake. I can be a bit of a perfectionist when it comes to something I envision, but that is only because I want it to turn out the best. Any project I undertake is a reflection of me, so I already aim for little to no mistakes, which seems to be a trademark of good Directors. However, I do realize that I am only human. As would be necessary in my projected line of work, I enjoy working with people one on one and believe sincerity and trust can go a long way. I believe that I would be able to guide others in their tasks or roles without having my direction taken negatively. My future will be bright no matter what I do, so long as I trust my inner vision. I believe my creativity will take me as far as I want it to go.

## **Works Cited**

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