Which Type of Writer Are You?\(^1\)

*Activity:* Circle one answer per question. If more than one answer is applicable, choose the one that fits best with the way you write on large projects (like your dissertation)

1. **Getting Started: in preparation for writing...**
   - I allow the topic or idea to mature in my head before writing anything down. [C]
   - I brainstorm on the topic and write down everything that comes to mind. [A]
   - I collect all materials applicable to the topic. [B]
   - I draft various introductions to my topic, and decide later which one to use. [D]

2. **The writing process: when writing ...**
   - I revise sections of my text many times. [D]
   - I use an outline to develop my ideas. [C]
   - I begin drafting my text without worrying about structure. [A]
   - I start writing the section that appeals to me/that I have the most ideas about. [B]

3. **The writing process: during the writing process ...**
   - I distill my thesis through a step-by-step revision of the text. [D]
   - I find it satisfying to see various parts of my text developing simultaneously. [B]
   - I am often surprised by the ideas that I develop while writing. [A]
   - I work through my outline, point by point, as I write. [C]

4. **The final draft: before submitting a final draft ...**
   - I need time to restructure my writing prior to submitting it. [A]
   - I only make minor changes to my text during the final edit. [C]
   - I save all drafts of my text, and decide at the end, which one(s) to use. [D]
   - I check my text for repetitiveness/ensure that all ideas are fully developed. [B]

How often did you choose:

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<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
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\(^1\) This questionnaire, originally entitled: “Fragenbogen zum Schreibtypen,” was developed by the Arbeitskreis Schriebdidaktik Berlin-Brandenburg, and converted into an online quiz by the University of Frankfurt (am Main), available in German at [http://www2.uni-frankfurt.de/44313443/Schreibtypentest.swf](http://www2.uni-frankfurt.de/44313443/Schreibtypentest.swf). Translation provided by Jess Clayton.
Evaluation

[A] The Adventurer

Motto: The journey is the destination

Description: You like to jump into new writing projects with both feet, and often develop your ideas and the structure of your text as you write.

Benefits of your writing style:

- Because you write spontaneously and without expectations, you rarely find writing to be boring.
- You are open to new ideas, and that is frequently what you find while writing.
- You are able to easily put words on paper, and therefore quickly feel a sense of accomplishment.

Some risks involved with your writing style:

- You are more likely to digress from the true purpose of the writing assignment.
- You must allow more time for revision before submitting a final draft.
- You may find it difficult to determine how to complete the writing process.

[B] The Squirrel

Motto: Collecting and Jumping

Description: You are not a linear writer; instead you prefer to jump around from one part of the text to another. You may interrupt writing to collect more information/conduct further research.

Benefits of your writing style:

- You are a flexible writing; if you get stuck while writing a certain section, you can easily switch to work on another.
- You are able to reduce the anxiety associated with writing long texts by breaking the task into several small pieces.
- The provisional nature of your writing process prevents unhealthy perfectionism.

Some risks involved with your writing style:

- You have a tendency to postpone difficult part of the task.
- You are more likely to lost track of the overall task.
- You may find it difficult to determine how to complete the writing process.

[C] The Gold Digger

Motto: With treasure map in hand, dig deep to obtain the perfect text.

Description: You prefer to make a plan before writing and you follow this plan while writing.

Benefits of your writing style:

- You approach is clear/straightforward, which allows you to plan your time well.
- You can always identify the purpose and structure of your text.
- You can easily explain your plan to others and can therefore work well in a team.

Some risks involved with your writing style:

- You are less likely to be open to new ideas that develop as you write.
- You may get caught up in the planning process, and in so doing, put off the actual writing process.
- Because of the long time spent planning the text, it takes more time for you to see the results of your work, which can be disheartening.

[D] The Decathlete

Motto: Multiple starts get you to the point

Description: You write your text in several distinct versions. Instead of revising previous drafts, you are more likely to start again from scratch.

Benefits of your writing style:

- You can write freely, without concerns about perfection in your drafts.
- You are able to utilize writing as a means of thinking through your ideas.
- Your final drafts are well thought through and come quickly to the point.

Some risks involved with your writing style:

- You are forced to choose between several versions of text when constructing the final draft.
- Your approach can be time consuming.
- In creating so many unique drafts, you can more easily lose focus on the purpose of the project.