

After taking three personality tests and reading through the results, I have to conclude that I knew a good chunk of what they told me already, but hadn't ever really put it together into something more with any depth to it. To put it another way, I could look at each individual personality trait, habit, or behavior each test predicted and point to a number of memories that proved them right - in a real way, not in the fortune cookie/horoscope 'so vague it couldn't not be true' way - but up until now I hadn't thought about how those aspects of myself interacted and meshed to give a fuller picture of who I am.

The 'Psychopath Test' is the one I felt gave the least insight into my personality, mostly because of how short the test and results are. I got a 33%, which according to the websites translates to a preference for planning as opposed to risk-taking, a dislike for conflict, and a general guiding principle of putting into the world what I hope to get back. I believe this is mostly true; I generally prefer to treat people well in the hopes of getting the same thing back, real conflict is unpleasant for me, and I like to know where I'm going before I take a step in that direction. The last two points are a little trickier though, because I'm very happy to engage in passionate arguments about things that don't matter in the slightest (I'll defend mint chocolate chip ice cream for hours if I have to), and an acceptable amount of 'planning' for me usually just means figuring out the broad strokes and improvising from there (I wrote this paper - and many, many others - by ranting at speech-to-text and cleaning up the grammar).

The Sparktype quiz was more in-depth, and definitely gave me plenty to think about. To summarize, my primary motivation is to learn as much and as deeply about some topic as I possibly can, for the sheer joy of learning about it; I also find a deep satisfaction in the act of teaching or giving understanding, though it's often in service to my own desire to learn; lastly, I'm not very well inclined to a nurturing impulse, and it's more draining than fulfilling when I do engage in it. The first two are very familiar to me - for as long as I can remember, I've done my best to read and learn and find out more about the natural world, digging deeper and deeper into the 'how' of things until I finally landed on physics, which as a subject can be summed up as "how does anything do anything?" I've also known for a very long time that explaining what I've learned to someone else is a great way to learn even more, either because they were an adult that

could direct me towards more on the subject, or because trying to explain a concept naturally forced me to break it back down and re-examine it from another person's perspective. The last point, which the website calls my Anti-Sparktype, makes me a little more conflicted. I *want* to be a nurturing person, or at least the kind of person that my loved ones feel like they can come to for support, but for all I do to try and be a good listener or a source of comfort, I have to admit that it doesn't always come easily to me. More often than not, it can be frustrating to know that someone has a problem and have to direct my natural focus away from trying to fix it. Sometimes it even causes me stress knowing that someone is in pain and all I can really do is offer them a shoulder to lean on, or worse, a phone receiver to cry into. It makes me wonder if my drive to become a teacher isn't on shaky ground - shouldn't the type of educator I want to become be able to provide at least a bit of emotional support?

The Humanmetrics test was the most thorough, and I could probably write a much longer paper on how accurate those results felt. I was listed as an INFJ type personality, with a potential lean towards ENFJ since my Introversion and Extraversion are fairly balanced. Not all of the description they gave is accurate - it says I'm likely to gravitate towards liberal arts over hard sciences, which is definitely not true - but for a test that attempts to separate all 8 billion people in the world into just 16 different categories, it did a very good job of detailing my somewhat paradoxical "outgoing introvert" nature, my struggle to square my ideals and vision with a desire for practical solutions, and how difficult I find it to express or even understand my feelings beyond a surface level. Knowing how easy it is to put me in that kind of box, even an imperfect one, makes me wonder if I shouldn't worry so much about those kinds of troubles. If it's so common that it's written plainly on some free-to-use website, then there must be plenty of people who feel the same way, and who would probably be able to understand what I'm feeling even if I can't get the words out exactly the way I want to.