

THE 5 TYPES OF LEADERS

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It's easy to tell someone to "be a leader." It's almost an overused saying at this point. However, once you realize that there are multiple ways to be a leader, it becomes infinitely easier to accept the role. Here are 5 leadership styles that you can choose from.

Let's look at the autocratic style first. This style is one in which all the power is concentrated in the hands of the leader. They make all the decisions, and there is little input from the rest of the group. This style works best when there is a need to make decisions on the spot, or if your team lacks experience.

Another leadership style is authoritative.

Authoritative leaders are more active in guiding and explaining their decisions to their team. They refrain from just issuing orders, and they help their team see what their decisions are going to lead to.

The next type of leaders we'll look at are Democratic leaders. Democratic leaders value input from their team. They will seek team members' opinions before finalizing decisions, and this participative leadership style will increase trust and team spirit. It's all about creating an environment where people end up wanting to do their tasks instead of feeling forced to do so.

Yet another kind of leadership style to choose from is the Coaching style. A leader who chooses this style has a goal of developing their team member's talents. Their approach includes gently guiding people until they're skilled enough to do the task on their own .

The final kind of leadership style is the Affiliative style. This kind of leader has a personal relationship with their team members, paying attention to and supporting their emotional needs. It's particularly useful for ensuring team cooperation and reducing conflicts that may happen between team members.

But which of these would be right for you? To answer that question you have to know yourself intimately-- what kind of situations are you best at handling? How do you support people when they're in trouble? Using these questions, you can gain a pretty good idea of what kind of a person you are. Above all, keep applying whatever leadership style you've chosen: that way, you can alter it as you go on until it's near perfect. Don't forget that no one fits cleanly into any of these categories, and that there is always some degree of nuance. Soon, you'll find that leadership becomes second nature to you.

