INFP

(Introversion, Intuition, Feeling, Perceiving)

Overview

INFPs are generally flexible, thoughtful, considerate, and faithful. They are often quite private, reserved, and share their inner thoughts with carefully selected people. The INFP is guided by their inner values, morals, and ideals. They evaluate their options and make decisions that are consistent with their values in order to maintain an inner harmony. The INFP often remains fairly adaptable unless one of their values is challenged. INFPs also tend to be very idealistic and will personally invest themselves in anything they do. They generally set high standards but may not acknowledge their achievement of these standards. This can result in a reduced sense of personal worth and lead to internal conflict.

The INFP generally has a deep and genuine interest in people. They are often looking to contribute to the betterment of others and will use their insight to help people personally develop. The high value they place on relationships generally makes them a good friend. They also possess the ability to motivate people and tend to focus on feelings. The INFP often prefers one-on-one communication and interaction. They also tend to avoid conflict and confrontations, and will deal with these types of situations by first spending time on their own. The INFP also generally dislikes competitions because they pose an opportunity for conflict and threaten their desire for harmony.

An INFP is often creative and uses their imagination to see new ways of accomplishing tasks. They focus on details and gathering data when it relates to a specific project they value. However, they generally pay minimal attention to the details pertaining to other aspects of life. They have the ability to see the underlying meaning of things and often require time on their own to facilitate their reflections. The INFP will generally prefer to work in the background to accomplish their personal purpose in life. Nonetheless, they can do well with public speaking when drawing their audience into their personally held views and opinions. The INFP is often a perfectionist and may have difficulty completing tasks on time because they want to make continual changes and improvements.

**Procrastination**
The INFP will often procrastinate as a result of their perfectionism and high standards. They tend to gather a wealth of information and become overwhelmed with knowing where to begin or when to end their research. This can lead the INFP to become critical of themselves and further delay the project’s progress. The INFP also has a tendency to become consumed in one project, which can then lead to the procrastination of other necessary tasks.

The INFP may find it beneficial to set multiple deadlines throughout a project’s duration in order to keep them on task. It may also help to start writing in the middle and leave the introduction and conclusion until the end. They may also find it helpful to discuss their expectations for a project in order to determine whether they are realistic.
Career Exploration

An INFP tends to find career satisfaction with careers that have the following characteristics:

- Captures their core interests and values
- Involves the completion of inspirational projects
- Includes a social component or pursuit of their ideals
- Acknowledges their contributions
- Fosters and supports original thought and creativity
- Supports personal and professional development of all employees
- Allows for control over both the process and end product
- Provides adequate time to complete projects

When exploring career options, an INFP will often

- Consider multiple career options
- Naturally explore future career possibilities but should remember to consider specific job-related details
- Need to intentionally expand their networking to include more than just friends
- Integrate their values into making a career decision
- Benefit from selecting a decision deadline

Careers to Consider

The following is a list of suggested occupations that fit the qualities of an INFP or are careers that other INFPs have found to be satisfying. Use this list as a starting point for further investigation but do not limit your options to only this list.

- Actor
- Architect
- Career Counselor
- Church Worker
- College Professor: Humanities/Arts
- Counselor: General
- Editor
- Educational Consultant
- Employee Development Specialist
- Entertainer
- Fine Artist
- HR Development worker
- Journalist
- Laboratory Technologist
- Minister/Priest
- Missionary
- Musician
- Novelist
- Physical Therapist
- Physician: Psychiatry
- Poet
- Psychologist
- Religious Educator
- Research Assistant
- Researcher
- Social Scientist
- Social Worker
- Speech Pathologist
- Writer
**Work**

At work, the INFP will often...
- Desire a work environment that is based on harmony, encouragement, and cooperation
- Passionately pursue and work tirelessly to complete projects they believe in
- Have perfectionist standards and experience significant achievements
- Value making a contribution
- Adapt well to quick changes
- Promote the growth of others in the organization
- Use a creative and imaginative approach to solve problems and see the big picture
- Handle multiple projects consecutively
- Prefer working independently with the opportunity to collaborate with coworkers
- Require time for reflection
- Desire control over all aspects of a project

At work, the INFP should be aware that they may...
- Have difficulty accepting a finished product if it does not meet their high standards
- Become engrossed in a project and ignore reality or appear disorganized
- Avoid conflict and be negatively affected by tension
- Intentionally need to include details and specific facts in their work
- Need to increase their delegation of tasks
- Need to set realistic time estimates for completing projects
- Require control of a project in order to maintain their interest level
- Need to seek out and integrate constructive feedback
- Find that traditional and structured work environments inhibit their progress

**Life**

**Decision Making**

When it comes to decision making, the INFP will often...
- Evaluate their options based on what they value
- Need to intentionally gather specific data and facts
- Use their creativity to establish possibilities
- Naturally avoid analyzing or basing a decision on logic and may benefit from being more objective

**Playing**

The INFP has a tendency to neglect their own needs while pursuing a cause or purpose. Subsequently, they should consciously allocate specific times for family, fun, physical activity, and personal needs. If involved on campus, they tend to be active in the school newspaper or other areas of publications. As a roommate, they are generally flexible but may need to be conscious of keeping things in order. When it comes to dating, the INFP student reports that they prefer a long-term relationship.
**Stress**

An INFP will often experience stress when...

- Reality and their idealistic ideals are not aligned
- Dealing with the spitefulness, insincerity, or negativity of others
- Conflicted with choosing between their values and maintaining harmony
- Encountering people who are not concerned about others
- Idealistic ideals are met with excessive criticism
- Unable to interact with people to gain their opinions
- Working within a stringent and excessively structured environment
- Required to use time management to organize their activities

When they are affected by stress, an INFP will often...

- Limit their intake or openness to new information
- Become rigid and make impersonal judgments
- With significant stress, doubt their own abilities and become critical of themselves and others
- Experience feelings of depression or despair

An INFP can reduce stress by...

- Balancing their time to include adequate personal relaxation
- Designating time to spend recharging their energy and refocusing on their values
- Realistically assessing the time it takes to complete a project or meet a goal
- Participating in activities that require analyzing and strategizing
- Developing their time management skills