

# Influential Writing Workshop: Participant Sample

A participant wrote this article in the workshop.

Version 1 was the first draft. Version 2 was after editing.

## VERSION 1

### How Personality affects your marriage

Marriage is a joyous occasion for anyone. It is when a new phase in their life that they promised one another till death do us part and for good or bad where they end their singlehood life. It is than sad to see that every year, our government release statistic that shows divorce rate are on the rise. It could be in your community or even in certain age group. So how could a couple that had grown to love each other and promised to be with each other fall apart? The report would had shown that things like money, adultery or other reason could be the reason sighted as why divorce happened. In reality, all this issues boils down to one main point. COMMUNICATION.

### **Communication**

Communication forms an integral part of our daily lives. Where ever we go or at what stage of our life we are in, communication forms an essential skill that each and every one of us should master. So what happen when a marriage falls apart? Are the couple not communicating with one another? So what than could be a cause for the message to not reach the other party?

### **Personality**

When two individual comes together in matrimony, they are bringing together their personality that had been formed by their upbringing. This upbringing could be from their parents, friends or experiences that they had gone thru in their life. In DISC personality, people are informed of their denomination of their personality. You could be Domineering, Influential, Steadfast, Compliance or a mixture of them. DISC personality also tells you on how each personality communicate with one another. What their stress points? Why they react a certain way. Therefore it is important that we also understand our personality and the personality of our spouse. In a famous quote by Tsu Zhu, "Know thyself. Know thy enemy. A thousand battle. A thousand victories." Thru knowing oneself strength and

weakness, we are able to communicate with our spouse on why we do certain things or even how we do it. Let's face it. When we are dating, everything seems so rosy because we compromise our differences so that we get what we want. Which is their HEART. But once we are married, we failed to learn how to fall in love again. How to express ourself not only in terms of our feeling but on the things we do daily.

### **Overcoming differences**

Therefore, to overcome our differences there is a paramount importance for you to learn about yourself and about your spouse. Understand their personality. By understanding their personality, communication can be much better. Rules can be implemented. Boundaries can be formed. Trust can be forged. If anytime faced with a challenge, you would be able to communicate well with each other. You would be able to ensure the message gets to the other party. Why do people scream when the fight? It is because their heart goes further from each other and to cover the distance they shout their message across. By understanding your spouse personality, you would be able to know whether do you need to be straight to the point or be structure or you need to give them time to digest what you had said or simply just informing them of the decision that you had made. All this would not be possible if you do not understand the personality of your spouse.

### **Conclusion**

A marriage is a harmony of two heart coming together from different background and personality. Understanding how to communicate across your opinion, problem or knowledge could be a key to a happier marriage.

## VERSION 2

# It's not your spouse, it's you.

Marriage is supposed to be a joyous journey. But in 2016, 7522 Singaporeans think otherwise. It got me asking, where did the promise go and what happened to 'till death do us part'? Weren't every divorced couple once a loving pair? Sure, statistics can identify all the causes of divorce, but to date, they have yet to identify the hidden cause -- communications.

### **Talking is not the same as communicating**

Ask any marriage counsellors and they would share with you stories of how couples would had stopped communicating with each other months before even thinking of getting a divorce. Yet they are still talking to each other. We have heard stories of couples that had been dating for many years prior to their marriage but eventually got divorce just after a couple of years. Let's face it, when we are dating, everything seems rosy because we compromise our differences to get what we want — their HEART! But once we are married, we stopped communicating.

### **There's a DISC between you and your spouse**

Marriage is not only the coming of two persons but two personalities. This personality had been formed by their upbringing from their parents, friends or experiences. According to the DISC personality profiling tool there are only four main personalities. They are, Domineering (D), Influential (I), Steadfast (S) and Compliance (C), or a combination of them.

DISC allows you to understand the science behind someone behaviour. In the famous quote by Tsun Zhu, "Know thyself. Know thy enemy. A thousand battle. A thousand victories." DISC allows you to understand how to communicate with each other.

For example, a 'D' spouse would be someone that makes decisions fast. He would do things on impulse and when things fail he would be hard on others. Even so, he would be forgiving and forget about the matter quickly.

An 'I' spouse on the other hand would make a decision collectively. He would prefer to be following what the majority says and would be seen as not having any opinion on a certain matter. They treasure relationship greatly and would be accommodative on any matters.

An 'S' spouse would be someone that follow a decision without complaining. They would know what they would want but would not mind accommodating to their spouse.

A 'C' spouse would be someone that requires concise details before making a decision. He would require time before coming to a decision. When things go wrong, they are hard against others but hardest against himself.

Now, that you know briefly about DISC what can you do?

### **Get your DISC rolling**

Here are three steps to get you rolling.

1. Understand the personality of yourself and your wife.
2. Listen or look for personality cues that your spouse would show.
3. Speak the personality language of your spouse and not yours.

By these three steps, you would be able to overcome any challenges that you might face in your marriage early on. Communication could be improved when you choose to speak in the personality language of your spouse.

For this reason, do contact me should you want to know more about DISC personality.

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522 words excluding headline.

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