WHAT IS AN INTROVERT?

# Why INTJs Are Actually Perfect for the Arts and

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INTJ / March 18, 2019

## Humanities by Kellye McBride



things rational and scientific. In every Myers-Briggs career profile I've read, the top jobs for INTJs are highly technical, like physics or engineering. But what if you're an INTJ who is somewhat artistically inclined? Do INTJ artists and creatives even exist? (What's your personality type? We recommend this <u>free personality assessment</u>.)

I've been interested in <u>creative writing and literature</u> for as long as I can remember, writing

short stories since I could pick up a pen. Does this mean that I'm more of a Feeler than I previously thought? Or am I simply an INTJ who goes against type? After indulging in some research (a classic INTJ move), I discovered I wasn't as alone as I

thought. As it turns out, there are just as many INTJs in the humanities as there are in the

sciences. In the arts, for example, Jane Austen, Dan Aykroyd, Chevy Chase, Katie Couric, Richard Gere, Emily Bronte, Angela Lansbury, and C. S. Lewis. Several famous philosophers are also typed as INTJ, including Karl Marx, G. W. F. Hegel, Jean-Paul Sartre, and my personal favorite, Friedrich Nietzsche. ADVERTISING

So why do INTJs get typecast in the sciences and not so much in the arts? INTJs Have Emotions... We Just Keep Them to Ourselves

Perhaps it has something to do with the emphasis on Extraverted Thinking versus

#### Introverted Feeling. Because of the INTJ's outward logical nature, it's difficult for others to gauge exactly what we're feeling at any given moment (and believe me, it's equally difficult

for us!). Therefore, in the art world, where emotions are placed front and center, it would make sense that we'd naturally shy away from it. But just because we have Introverted Feeling doesn't mean we don't feel at all. In fact, the arts may be a rich playground for emotional expression for INTJs who may feel uncomfortable with outward displays of emotion and prefer to envelop themselves in

detailed metaphors or abstract concepts. INTJs Are Visionaries Because INTJs are systematic, big-picture thinkers, it can be challenging for us to find a

Many INTJs writers have been visionaries in terms of creating fictional worlds through

platform for our ideas because we often struggle with the details of executing our plans. But

which principal characters struggle with moral dilemmas, such as C. S. Lewis' Chronicles of

Narnia. But on a less fantastic scale, INTJs are also skilled analysts and systems-thinkers,

## which has led to the development of whole ideologies, such as Marxism or Existentialism. INTJs Work Hard — Very Hard

what better way to test ideas than through our imagination?

Another strength of ours, which might be a problem area for other personality types more commonly associated with the arts and humanities (such as the ISFP or ENFP), is our tenacious work ethic. There isn't a problem that an INTJ isn't committed to solving, and once we get ahold of an idea, we become obsessed with it until we exhaust every possible scenario!

Therefore, when creative setbacks happen (as they almost always do), we tend to push

through until the very end rather than abandoning a project altogether. We may be less

likely to hold on to an idea that is simply not working, so once we've identified that our novel/screenplay/philosophical treatise is not going anywhere (and we've done all we can to fix it), we know when to quit. **INTJs Can Handle Criticism** 

INTJs are also less likely to shy away from constructive criticism. Sure, even INTJs can get

### their feelings hurt, but we rationally know that feedback can make our project better, so we actively encourage it! We have enough detachment from our ideas that we believe that

almost anything can be argued, so when faced with criticism, we're much more receptive to improving our ideas rather than taking it personally. INTJs are always concerned with what works, therefore we will often seek out others to "test" our theories through debate or discussion. In a field where criticism is inevitable, this is a highly valuable skill. You work hard usbank toward your goals.



One of the perks of a career in the humanities is that they can be heaven for the <u>introvert</u>

who prefers to work independently. Few other types need this as much as INTJs, who

#### require plenty of alone time. Therefore, investing long hours into a single project isn't usually a problem for us; unlike some other types, INTJs don't crave the company of others

to re-energize them after long periods of solitude. In fact, INTJs tend to be stimulated by the work itself, often needing even more alone time to recuperate afterward! They also bring a natural structure and discipline to any project they pursue, meaning they have no problem devising their own schedule with self-imposed milestones. This can be refreshing to publishers and gallery owners who often struggle to wrangle their creatives before an upcoming deadline.

Want more INTJ articles? Subscribe to our INTJ-only newsletter <u>here</u>. Even though our naturally analytical and perceptive nature makes us wonderful scientists,

researchers, and technicians, I believe that INTJs can also be equally skilled writers and

aren't suited for the touchy-feely arts and humanities, this is more of a stereotype than a

truth about this particular psychological type. INTJs are just as capable of exploring their

emotions as any feeler (when they make a deliberate effort), and their natural strengths as

artists. Though our apparently cold and rational nature might lead people to believe that we

visionaries and hard workers aid them where other creatives might struggle. " You might like: ■ <u>INTJ: 7 Tips to Deal With Your Emotions (Even When You'd Rather Ignore Them)</u> • No, I'm Not Cold and Emotionless. I Have a 'Thinking' Personality. • <u>5 Confessions of a Female INTJ</u>

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Kellye McBride

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Introvert, Dear

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fast and lots of them in a short time.

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study of theology seemed quite natural.

cooking and baking when I have energy.

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**Kellye McBride** → Sarah Todd • 9 months ago

I wholeheartedly agree, Sarah. Good design IS art.

and sci-fi models and some landscapes in miniature as well.

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Kellye McBride is a freelance writer and copy

editor from Portland, OR. She's a graduate of

writes about her dual passions of philosophy and

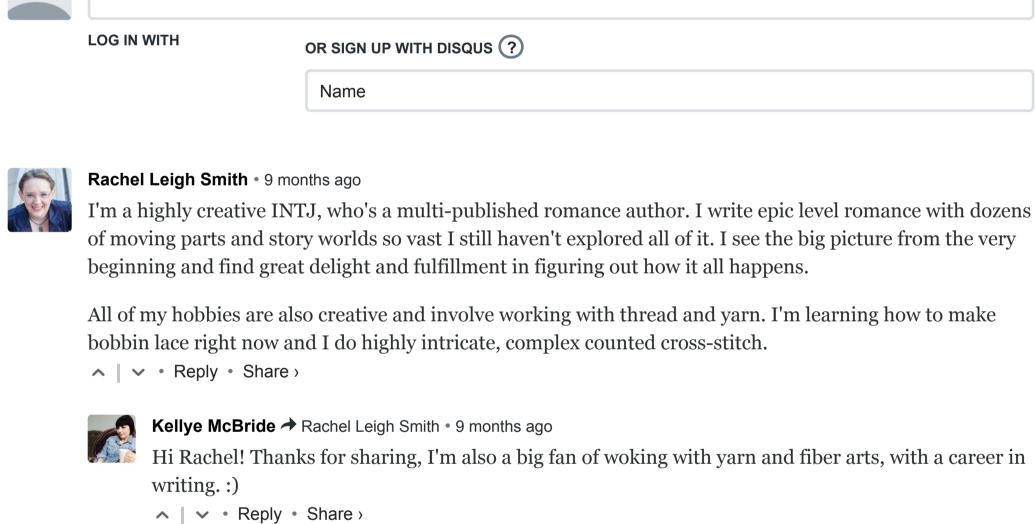
horror films, as well as teaching courses at a local

Kingston University London and frequently

nonprofit. When she's not plagued with INTJ

problems, you can find her on **Twitter** or her

website, kellyemcbrideediting.com.



**Kellye McBride** → Jayson Paglow • 9 months ago Right? Thank you, I felt the same way reading those career articles. 2 ^ | V • Reply • Share Cyn Blamire • 9 months ago I am an INTJ and a sculptor. My logical thinking side makes me a little different than a lot of other visual

work is a bit more intellectual and I especially like working with metaphors.

**Kellye McBride** → Cyn Blamire • 9 months ago

**Kellye McBride** → Kashawn Berry • 9 months ago

Honestly, I'd 100% read a philosophy graphic novel.

Great article! We're naturally great writers. I'm perplexed by guides telling me I should want to be an

architect when my ideal job is definitely an author. Thanks for this perspective. You hit the nail on the

arts creatives I encounter. I'm more passionate about generating ideas and love design work. Most of my

Oh absolutely! I think being an INTJ is actually an asset because we do have the capacity to create

I also feel it's a safe way to express my feelings. I'm pretty private and guarded about my feelings.

really cool, cerebral art. ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share > Kashawn Berry • 9 months ago You are so right im a creative im in the process of developing my graphic novel series and i do love philosophy and all that but i translate that to my art and reflect on my views on life in my work

**Kellye McBride** → Marcus Emmons • 9 months ago Of course! That is such an interesting combination of interests. ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share > Sarah Todd • 9 months ago I'm an interior designer and florist, I love bringing a system in place to fully include and immerse the end

user in the creative process. I also write, paint, build models, sew and enjoy home maker activities like

I feel that my personality often gives me an advantage over peers due to my wide creative interests and

ability to not get hung up on a predisposed personal ideal. I live for design and firmly believe that good

Thank you for writing this. I'm an INTJ. And while I love studying physics, I've always found myself

uniquely suited to my vacation as an Anglican Priest. I'm always thinking about the bigger picture, so the

I'm an INTJ who's studied calligraphy, made cloisonne jewelry, had 2 novels published and a short story in the New Yorker. Now I do decorative projects in my apartment with tile, sew various things from linen, learn complex knitting techniques, create recipes, and play with my plant collection. I'm hardly a technical type, but I've been mischaracterized all my life in various ways so I expect that! I am an efficiency expert, however. ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share > Jacques • 9 months ago Hi Kellye, I work probono as a relationship coach, due to my own challenges of having such a rare

personality type, I have two published books and work by day as an electronics engineer. My hobbies like a

lot of other creative INTJs are writing romantic short stories, and sculpting in miniature mostly fantasy

I am highly creative. I am also highly logical and have a keen interest in science. I attribute this at some

skill since I was a young child. I used to write my grandmother letters up-side-down and backwards. I

degree to being ambidextrous. My right and left sides of my brain work together and I have practiced this

paint, am a published poet, and because I have acute problem solving skills, I can recreate or re-purpose or

remodel my living quarters. It first came out of a need to improve some of the (not so lovely) apartments I

rented. I had to make them feel personal to me without spending money I would never see a return on. It

was great practice for the old home I am in now. I am extremely organized and can make an ascetic

The downside, I could never figure out what I should be when I grew up. I have such a wide scope of passions and skills that I would get promotions quickly, but then became bored easily and would move on to something new after a few years. New challenges excited me and I was a quick study which made it difficult to find an employer that understood my thirst for challenge and take advantage of my desire to do what's best for the company. I became frustrated with those who were not willing to utilize my abilities many were unable properly place me. I am retired now, so I don't worry about that anymore. ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share > Olivia Warner • 8 months ago

I am really glad to have found this article. For a while I was questioning whether or not I was an INTJ as

processes involved in science and maths are interesting, I finds the arts much more stimulating as there are

capabilities to shift through the dense topics, finding the essence of the issue and therefor a solution. Thank

cast the arts as touchy feely subjects that are largely populated by feelers, very few understand that it takes

you so much for making this clear and removing my one doubt about being an INTJ! Many people often

although I have all the other traits, science and maths are not my favourite subjects. While the logical

often so many conflicting ideas and perspectives that it takes a logical mind with problem solving

a very logical and abstract brain to comprehend the advanced ideas and issues involved. 1 ^ | V • Reply • Share > Nancy Hess → Olivia Warner • 5 months ago Olivia, your comments resonate with me. Although my work deals with organization "systems", I am also an abstract expressionist painter. Although published INTJ careers point to "scientist", I do not think of myself that way. However, I have encountered well established scientists who claim that it takes an artistic, creative mind to approach research science. You have to work from the abstract to the concrete. You "imagine" what might be and then create the conditions to birth the idea. This is

true of artistic work in every way. INTJs are unique in their way of seeing the world!

I'm pretty sure I've seen some articles suggesting "writer" as a good occupation for INTJ's. "Architect" pops up a lot, too, as does "photographer". These all count as part of the arts & humanities. It's not much of a stretch to throw other types of artistic endeavors in there. ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share > lan Messenger • 8 months ago I'm an INTJ with a science degree - although I love writing. I have only just started putting pen to paper after a few decades off. But I like "crafting" something, coming back and re-writing it to again include more, but without overpowering it. Its a real skill to say a lot with very few words, something I am still learning. interesting article:)

I had a teacher who thought that I would make a very good writer; however, writing can be tough, draining

and not exactly wall to wall employment plus I am not one of these writers that can crank out things very

∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share > Anais • 11 days ago Well; after 6 years of hard work and doing a Ph.D in Marketing, I've decided to switch my career . As an INTJ woman, Marketing and business drained me and felt so depressed for I spent an eternity doing what I was not passionate about just to satisfy family needs. I know marketing can be also a creative path but it's not for me and I hate myself so so much for not listening to my intuition but anyway I Still feel destroyed for I'm 30 and no longer 20 yet I will start from 0 It's not gonna be easy yet I've decided it cos I've learned

the very hard way and as long as I'm not doing what makes me happy I'll end up miserable and insane.

**ALSO ON INTROVERT, DEAR** Here's the Love Language of Each Introverted **INFJ: 5 Questions to Consider Before Slamming Myers-Briggs Type** the Door 29 comments • 15 days ago 3 comments • a month ago Geneviève Wynand — Thank you, Norma! I am so TJ — I think the INFJ Door Slam is misunderstood. glad the article resonated for you. Words really are People seem to think we do it quickly, in haste, and powerful, with an incredible ability to harm or to with great anger. In reality, I think that others give up

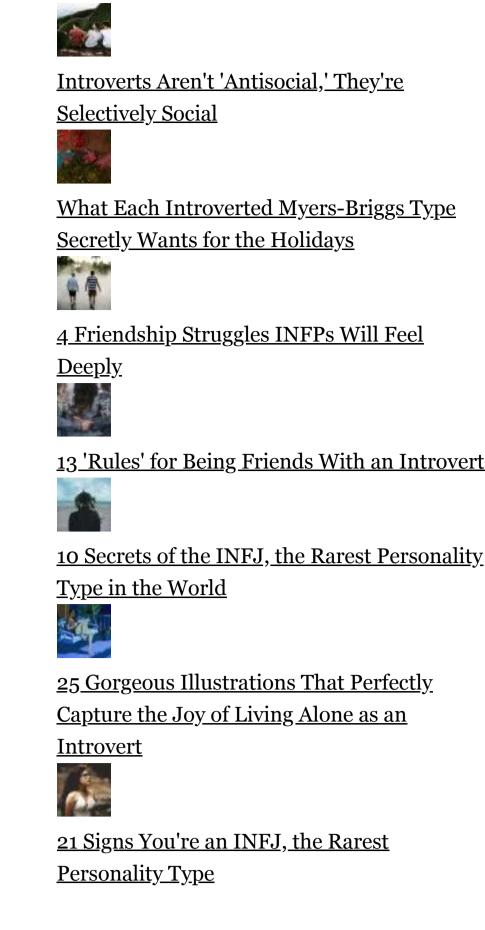
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