

forget the box. think outside.

# CONFLICT STYLES



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## My Preferred Conflict Style

**Instructions:** Rate each statement below from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree).

|    |   | Rate |
|----|---|------|
| 1  | I tend to push for my own perspective in conflicts.   |      |
| 2  | I work to find solutions that fully satisfy everyone involved.                                      |      |
| 3  | I prefer to avoid conflicts rather than confront them.  |      |
| 4  | I am willing to settle for a solution that is acceptable to both parties, even if it's not perfect. |      |
| 5  | I am willing to concede to preserve relationships.  |      |
| 6  | I believe most conflicts are not worth getting involved in.   |      |
| 7  | I am comfortable with making quick decisions to resolve disputes.                                   |      |
| 8  | I am willing to spend time and effort to achieve a win-win solution.                                |      |
| 9  | I look for middle ground solutions where both sides gain something.                                 |      |
| 10 | I feel it is important to win a conflict, even if it means others might lose.                       |      |
| 11 | I believe that everyone's input should be considered when resolving a conflict.                     |      |
| 12 | I often go along with others' suggestions, even if I disagree.                                      |      |
| 13 | I prioritize maintaining harmony over getting what I want.  |      |
| 14 | I tend to withdraw from situations when disagreements arise.  |      |
| 15 | I believe that giving up something is necessary to reach a solution.                                |      |



#### My Results:



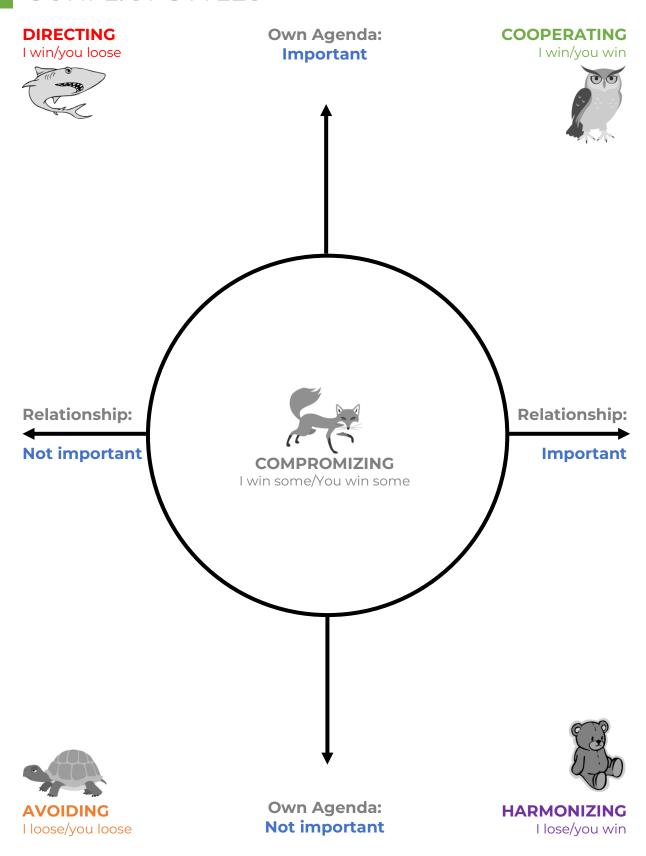
|       | Directing<br>(Competing) |   |    | Avoiding |   |    | Cooperating<br>(Collaborating) |   |    | Harmonizing<br>(Accommodating) |    |    | Compromising |   |    |
|-------|--------------------------|---|----|----------|---|----|--------------------------------|---|----|--------------------------------|----|----|--------------|---|----|
| No    | 1                        | 7 | 10 | 3        | 6 | 14 | 2                              | 8 | 11 | 5                              | 12 | 13 | 4            | 9 | 15 |
| Score |                          |   |    |          |   |    |                                |   |    |                                |    |    |              |   |    |
| TOTAL |                          |   | _  |          |   | •  |                                |   |    |                                |    |    |              |   |    |

### BRIEF OVERVIEW OF EACH CONFLICT STYLE

- 1. **Directing:** This style involves taking charge and making decisions quickly. It's useful in situations where quick, decisive action is needed, but it can sometimes come across as aggressive.
- 2. **Avoiding:** This style involves sidestepping or withdrawing from conflict. It can be helpful when the issue is trivial or when you need more time to think, but it can also lead to unresolved issues.
- 3. **Cooperating:** This style focuses on working together to find a mutually beneficial solution. It's ideal for building relationships and finding win-win outcomes, though it can be time-consuming.
- 4. **Harmonizing:** This style emphasizes maintaining peace and smoothing over conflicts. It's great for preserving relationships, but it might result in one party's needs being overlooked.
- 5. **Compromising:** This style involves finding a middle ground where each party gives up something. It's effective for reaching quick solutions, but it might not fully satisfy anyone involved.



## CONFLICT STYLES





## If You Are in a Conflict with Me



|              | DO   | DON'T  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| DIRECTING    | Discuss with me today rather than tomorrow.                  | Don't keep quiet! I need to know where I stand.  |  |  |  |  |
|              | I want to move forward!<br>Let's go                          | Don't bug me when I'm doing something important!   |  |  |  |  |
|              | Let me know what you think!                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| AVOIDING     | Give me time to think!                                       | Please don't be so<br>dominant towards me!<br>Otherwise, I'll withdraw.  |  |  |  |  |
|              | Give me enough information to form my                        |  |  |  |  |  |
|              | own opinion.   | Don't push me into a corner to make a decision.  |  |  |  |  |
| COOPERATING  | Listen to me carefully, please!                              | Please refrain from criticizing! I find that difficult.  Please don't hold back information, otherwise I'll get nervous. |  |  |  |  |
|              | Be direct but polite to                                      |  |  |  |  |  |
|              | me.<br>Discuss with me!                                      |  |  |  |  |  |
| HARMONIZING  | I am happy to<br>accommodate you. Give<br>me space to do so. | Don't forget the personal level! Then the business side.   |  |  |  |  |
|              | Give me some praise! I<br>need that more than<br>others.     | Don't be too serious with<br>me! Easy! With humor<br>please.   |  |  |  |  |
|              | Ask me for my opinion.                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| COMPROMIZING | Come towards me and I will come towards you.                 | Don't waste my time. I want to move forward.   |  |  |  |  |
|              | I think "give and take" is important!                        | Please don't discuss everything endlessly!   |  |  |  |  |
|              | I need a fair compromise.                                    |  |  |  |  |  |

Source: Adapted from Kraybill Style Matters