



Research Proposal: Relation Between Students' Majors and Personality Types



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INTRODUCTION

Each person has a different personality, ultimately leading to how they interact with people, what they do, and how they do things differently than others. But are people really that different? In our study we are attempting to find a relation, if any, between certain college majors and personality types. To determine this, we will be conducting surveys that include questions pertaining to their personality of students at Cleveland State University with either a STEMM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine) major or an arts and humanities major. We hypothesize that STEMM majors possess "Type A" personality traits, while arts and humanities majors possess "Type B" personality traits. "Holland's theory of vocational choice (1985) proposes that people will enter professions where they believe the work environment will match their personalities" (Pringle). This conclusion would help faculty and professors teach more effectively, and help people better understand themselves and their interests.

OBJECTIVES

To determine if there is a correlation between student's personalities and their choice of college major. This information may be significant to both employers and professors so they can adapt to the different personality characteristics. It also may be significant to the students themselves so they can form habits that better fit their personalities.

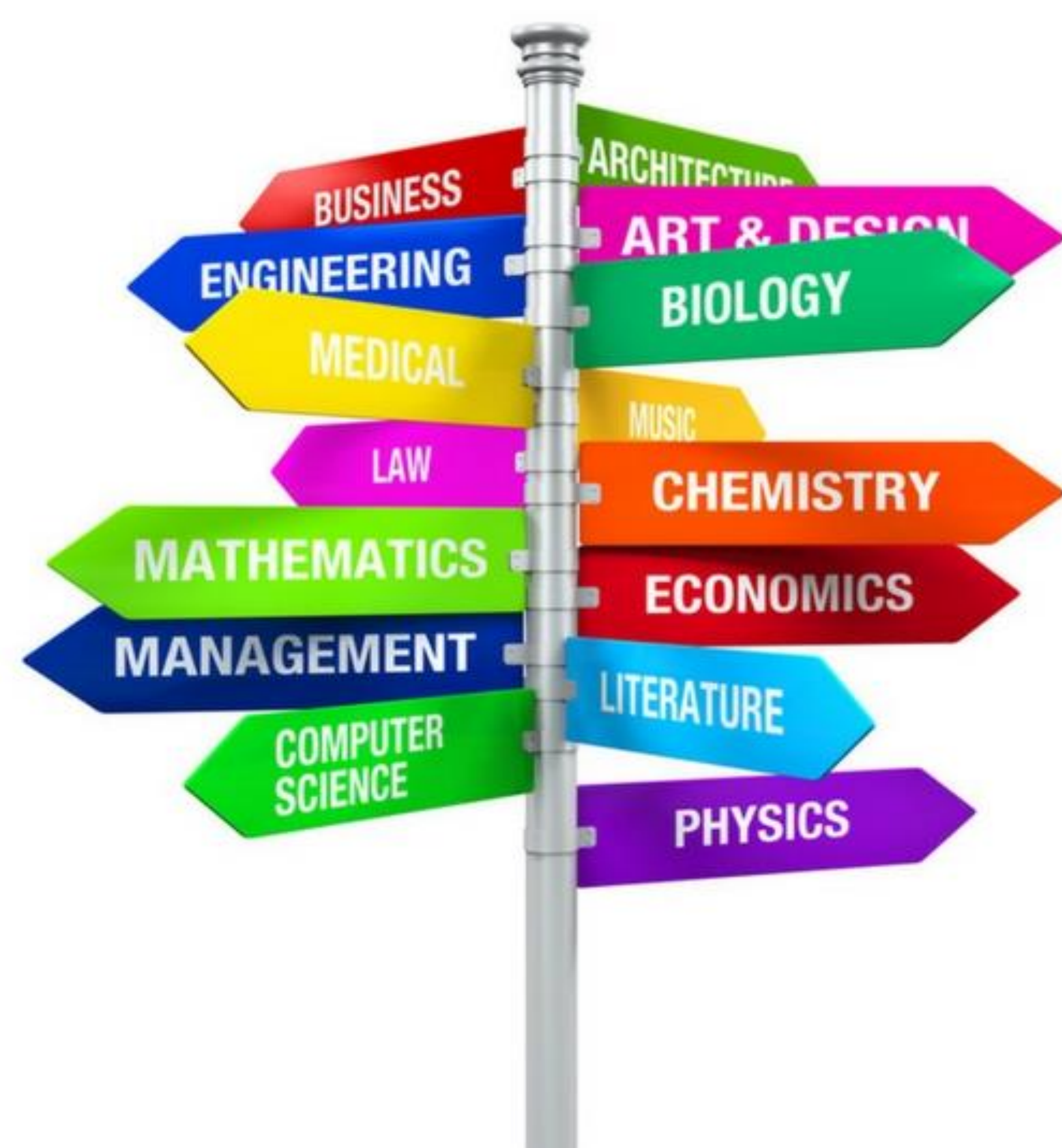


Figure 1. (n.d.). Retrieved March 20, 2018, from <https://goo.gl/images/Eem9NE>

METHODS

Anonymous Survey to try to eliminate response bias, sent through CSU email to all students.

Example Questions:

- I prefer to do things myself to make sure they are done right
- I feel relaxed on most days
- Cars pass me when driving
- I like to keep things clean
- I tend to feel stressed often
- I tend to eat fast
- I am organized
- I do not like waiting in a line longer than 5 minutes
- I get angry when I lose
- I take my time on things
- I want to be the best
- I would rather paint than play a sport
- When driving, I pass cars

Example Answers:

Highly disagree, Disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neutral, Somewhat agree, Agree, Highly agree

TYPE A	TYPE B
Ambitious	Relaxed
Driven	Creative
Competitive	Easy-going
Easily Stressed	Flexible
Impatient	Patient
Hostile	Friendly

Table 1. Type A and Type B Characteristics. Vedel.

References

- Pringle, C. D., DuBose, P. B., & Yankey, M. D. (2010). Personality characteristics and choice of academic major: Are traditional stereotypes obsolete? *College Student Journal*, 44(1), 131. Retrieved February 13, 2018, from <http://go.galegroup.com/ps/anonymou?id=GALE|A221092145&sid=googleScholar&v=2.1&it=r&linkaccess=fulltext&issn=01463934&p=AONE&sw=w&authCount=1&isAnonymousEntry=true>
- Vedel, A. (2016, April 19). *The Personality of Academic Majors*. Retrieved February 17, 2018, from <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-personality-of-academic-majors/>

RESULTS

We hypothesize that STEMM majors have a more of a competitive personality while arts and humanities have more of a relaxed personality. We expect this because STEMM majors in general include highly competitive fields, such as doctors, engineers, etc., while arts and humanities majors include more creative fields, such as music, writing, etc. Anna Vedel, a psychologist at Aarhus University, stated "in most cases, studies found significant relationships between personality traits and major choices (Vedel). Therefore, a relationship between students' majors and their personality types would be expected.

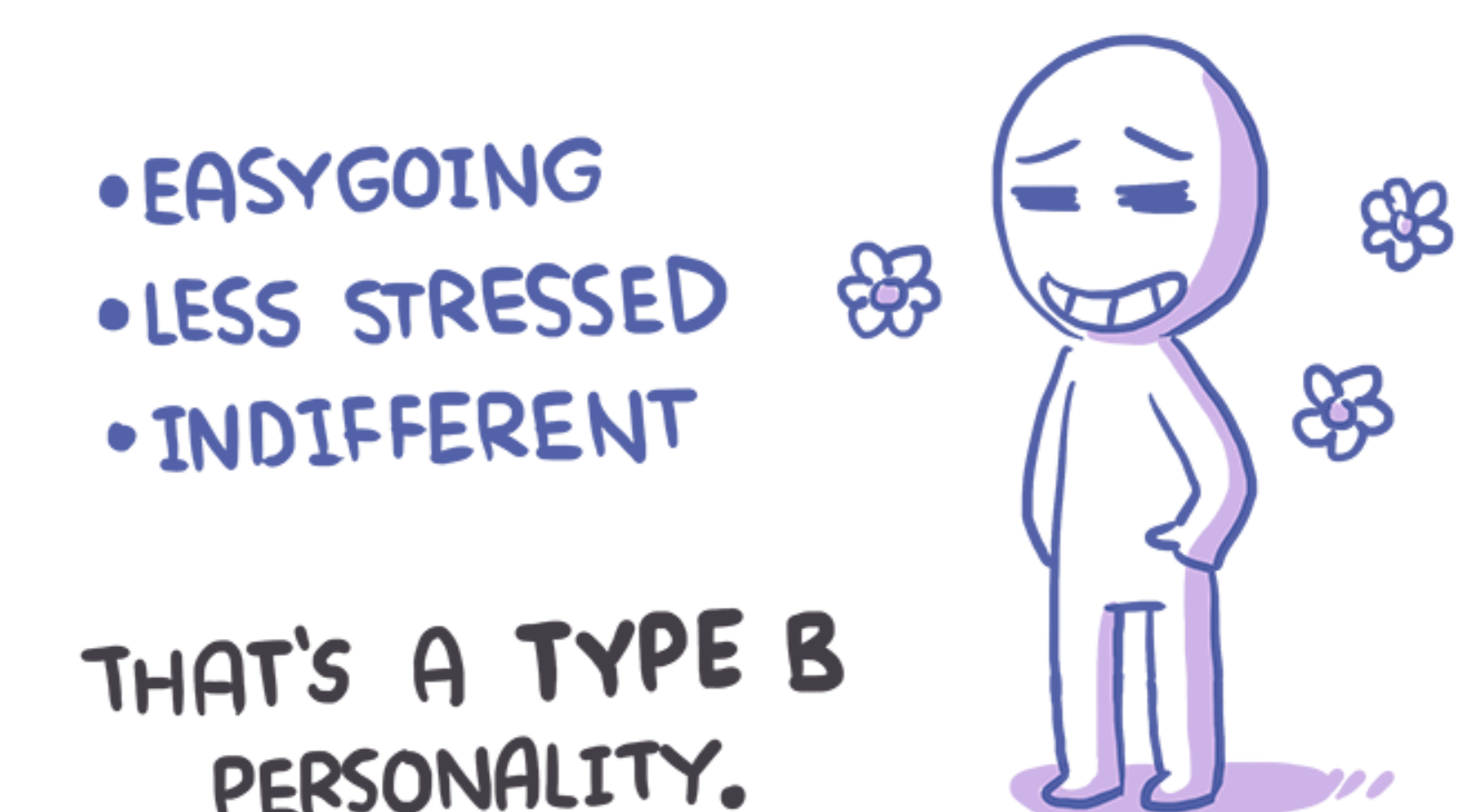


Figure 2. Owlurd Comix, 10 August 2015.

FUTURE WORK

In the future, we want to conduct the study to see if there is a correlation between personality type and college major. We want to conduct this study by sending a survey to all students at Cleveland State University. CSU offers a wide variety of people, backgrounds, cultures, and ultimately personalities. CSU also offers a wide variety of academic majors, many in both STEMM and arts and humanities.

Acknowledgments

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