LEUPHANA
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What type of writer are you?
Adventurer- Squirrel- Architect- Decathlete

In considering this question, you are reflecting on your writing approaches and inclinations and learning how to deal with them. It is important to be aware of why you might find some parts of the writing process easier or more difficult. The goal is to address your writing idiosyncrasies and identify and take advantage of writing strategies which work for you, as well as to tackle the various challenges that arise from using different strategies for different types of texts. In this way, it is possible to extend your writing capabilities.

Adventurer – the 'free- writer'
- Writes freely without thinking about the structure of the text.
- Develops ideas or the structure of the text whilst writing.
- Uses the writing process to further think about the topic and develop new ideas.
- Slightly digresses from the core topic and sometimes loses orientation whilst writing.
- Constantly reconsiders and changes the text structure during the writing process.

Strengths	Challenges
… writes freely and easily without getting bored.	… wanders slightly off-topic and can lose orientation because of this.
… open to new ideas.	… needs a lot of time to edit the final version of the text.
… optimally produces implicit knowledge through writing freely.	… cannot always foresee the end.
…free thinking allows for continuous inspiration and self-motivation.	
… aware of own progress, which provides sense of security.	

Squirrel – the 'patch-work writer'
- Writes and focuses on sections containing the most ideas and motivation.
- Writes different parts of the text at the same time and allows them to develop at a similar pace.
- Often interrupts the writing process to research further information.
- Likes to write small sections of different parts of the text first.
- Feels slightly exhausted when working too long on a given theme.

Strengths	Challenges
… flexible (i.e. starts working on different parts of a text when experiencing a writing block).	… likes to work on difficult steps first.
…divides a large writing project into several small and workable steps.	… cannot always foresee the end.
… avoids the type of crippling perfectionism that can often stunt the writing process.	… can lose sight of the overall project.
…allows for new ways of thinking (thereby avoiding writing blocks).	…tends to formulate content several times.

Architect – the 'planned writer'

- Constructs an outline before formulating text.
- Thoughtfully plans out all aspects of the text in detail.
- Often reluctant to start writing before fully developing ideas.
- Tends to not generate any new ideas once writing process begins.
- Does not write without a clear goal in mind.

Strengths	Challenges
… works well and has a good schedule.	… finds it difficult to move away from first approach or idea.
… maintains a solid comprehension of the common thread of the text.	… prioritises planning, which often means writing can be put on the back burner.
… can describe plan clearly to others.	… only has a result at a late stage in the process.
… can keep track of writing project.	
… can avoid the risk of digression by planning more quickly.	

Decathlete – the 'persistent writer'

- Constantly and extensively edits text to the point where the original text is hardly recognisable.
- Completely rewrites text once or twice – this is another variant of this type of writer.
- Often finds it difficult to choose between different versions of the same text.

Strengths	Challenges
…. can write uninterrupted without encountering a sort of paralysing perfectionism.	… has to part ways with a lot of text (i.e. the various versions of a text that are ultimately not selected).
… writes a lot and provisionally.	… needs to dedicate a lot of time to writing.
… uses writing to think.	… can lose sight of the core purpose of the text by writing too many versions.
… develops thoughts further by reformulating themes observed in the text.	

The questionnaire was taken from: Arnold, Sven; Chirico, Rosaria; Liebscher, Daniela (2012): Goldgräber oder Eichhörnchen. Welcher Schreibertyp sind Sie? In: JoSch – Journal der Schreibberatung, Ausgabe 4, 82–97; Available online at : https://www.europa-uni.de/de/struktur/zsfl/institutionen/schreibzentrum/Informationen/arbeitskreis/JoSch-Nr-4-April-2012-Sonderdruck.pdf
The concept is based on: Scheuermann, Ulrike (2011): Die Schreibfitness-Mappe: 60 Checklisten, Beispiele und Übungen für alle, die Beruflich schreiben. Wien: Linde.