



# Strength Deployment Inventory® : Interpretive Guide

MANAGE CONFLICT AND IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS *by Elias H. Porter, Ph.D.*

*Prepared exclusively for:*

*Facilitated by:*

**STRENGTH...** The Strength Deployment Inventory® (SDI®) helps people identify their personal strengths in relating to others under two conditions: 1) when everything is going well, and 2) when they are faced with conflict.

**DEPLOYMENT...** means to move strategically or to take a position for effective action. The SDI suggests ways that one’s personal strengths may be used to improve relationships with others.

**INVENTORY...** The SDI is not a test where judgments and “right” or “wrong” answers are graded. It is an inventory for taking stock of motivational values (the basis for how you feel and act in different situations). It is a self-discovery tool.

## Using the SDI Interpretive Guide

You have received this SDI Interpretive Guide because you completed the online version of the Strength Deployment Inventory. You will also be provided with your own results.

## Understanding Your SDI Results

The point values you chose while completing the online SDI result in six numerical totals. These totals are used to generate an arrow which represents your Motivational Value System and Conflict Sequence.

### The Dot

The dot indicates the Motivational Value System—motives and values that drive behavior when things are going well. The Valued Relating Style is the behavior associated with a Motivational Value System. See the pages titled “The 7 Motivational Value Systems” and “Points of Comparison Between Patterns of Motivation” for descriptive information.



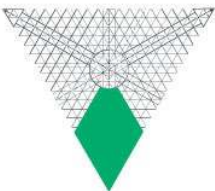
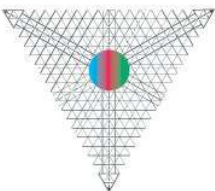
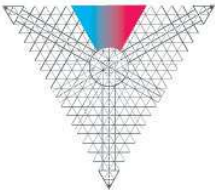
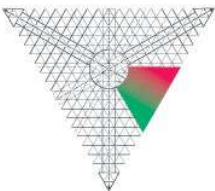
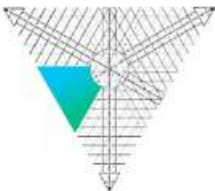
### The Arrowhead

The arrowhead indicates the Conflict Sequence—changes in motivation in conflict that drive changes in behavior in conflict. See pages titled “Your Conflict Sequence” and “Conflict Sequences” for descriptive information.



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Motivational Value System	Valued Relating Style	Rewarding Environment
<b>Blue: Altruistic–Nurturing</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern for the protection, growth, and welfare of others</li> </ul>	Being open and responsive to the needs of others... Seeking ways to bring help to others... Trying to make life easier for others... Trying to avoid being a burden to others... Ensuring others reach their potential... Ensuring others are valued... Defending the rights of others	Open, friendly, helpful, considerate, supportive, enhancing, trusting, socially sensitive, sincere, loyal, compassionate, respectful, humanitarian... Being needed... Being appreciated
<b>Red: Assertive–Directing</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern for task accomplishment</li> <li>• Concern for organization of people, time, money and any other resources to achieve desired results</li> </ul>	Competing for authority, responsibility and positions of leadership... Exercising persuasion... Being alert to opportunity... Claiming the right to earned rewards... Striving for immediate action... Accepting challenges... Accepting risk-taking as necessary and desirable... Demonstrating competitiveness	Progressive, innovative, evocative, challenging, fast-moving, stimulating, competitive, creative... New levels of opportunity... Potential for personal advancement and development... Personal material rewards available... Potential for winning... Verbally stimulating... Self-projection
<b>Green: Analytic–Autonomizing</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern for assurance that things have been properly thought out</li> <li>• Concern for meaningful order being established and maintained</li> </ul>	Being objective... Being right... Being principled... Being in control of one's emotions... Being practical... Being cautious and thorough... Being fair... Being resolute... Being serious... Being their own "judge and jury"... Being their "own person"... Thinking things through before acting	Clarity, logic, precision, utility, durability, efficiency, reliability, organized... Self-reliance, individualism, self-dependence... Effective use of resources... Individual decision making... Clear, supportable, authentic criteria for decision making... Time to explore options... Opportunity for economy... Researched recommendations
<b>Hub: Flexible–Cohering</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern for flexibility</li> <li>• Concern for the welfare of the group</li> <li>• Concern for the members of the group and for belonging in the group</li> </ul>	Being curious about what others think and feel... Being open minded and willing to adapt... Experiments with different ways of acting... Proud to be a "member"... Likes to know a lot of people... Likes to be known by a lot of people... Likes to be known as flexible	Friendly, involving, sociable, democratic, playful, changing, flexible... Encouraging interaction... Being heard and listening... Sensitivity to feelings... Consensus-building
<b>Red-Blue: Assertive–Nurturing</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern for the protection, growth, and welfare of others through task accomplishment and leadership</li> </ul>	Actively seeking opportunities to help others... Persuading others to ensure maximum growth and development of others... Being open to proposals for creating welfare and security for others... Creating enthusiasm and support in tackling obstacles to success	Openness, mentoring, enthusiastic, friendliness, sincerity, trust, compassion... Respect for others... Supporting the underdog... Positive, progressive initiatives for the growth and development of others
<b>Red-Green: Judicious–Competing</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern for intelligent assertiveness, justice, leadership, order, and fairness in competition</li> </ul>	Providing rational leadership that can assess risks and opportunities... Being decisive and proactive when all the facts are in... Challenging opposition through thoughtful process and strategy	Strategic, determined, planning... Complex, challenging tasks requiring expertise... Environment that offers recognition for achievement... Availability of technical resources... Opportunities to lead and to develop winning strategies
<b>Blue-Green: Cautious–Supporting</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern for affirming and developing self-sufficiency in self and others</li> <li>• Concern for thoughtful helpfulness with regard for justice</li> </ul>	Building effective processes and resources to protect or enhance welfare of others... Offering assistance for greater self-sufficiency and independence... Supporting activities that lead to growth... Fighting for principles that are fair	Conscientious, patient, congenial... Environment that respects individuals, fairness, and resources... Opportunities to encourage growth, independence, and bring forth the best in others... Tasks that require thoughtful analysis to aid those in need

# Points of Comparison: Part 1

Motivational Value System	<i>You feel best about what you are doing when you are . . .</i>	<i>You feel most rewarded by others when they treat you as a . . .</i>	<i>You identify with and feel most at ease with people who . . .</i>	<i>You are attracted to and intrigued by others who are . . .</i>
<b>Blue:</b>				
Altruistic–Nurturing	being helpful in some way to others who can genuinely benefit from your help.	warm and friendly person who wants to be of help and who is deserving of thanks and appreciation for giving help.	clearly care for the feelings, the needs, and the welfare of others.	strong and know exactly what they want to do and want you to be included in their activities and successes.
<b>Red:</b>				
Assertive–Directing	in the position of providing leadership and are able to set the goals for and direct the actions of others.	strong and ambitious person, a winner, and one who is deserving of the opportunity to provide leadership and direction.	clearly understand the productivity behind the exercise of power, control, and competition.	generous and responsive to you and who want to help you achieve your ambitions and your successes.
<b>Green:</b>				
Analytic–Autonomizing	able to pursue your own interests in a self-reliant way without having to take direction or help from those around you.	clear, logical and analytic person who is deserving of respect for dealing with others fairly and for being a person of principle.	clearly respect the integrity of others and the rights of others to determine their own courses of action.	open and explicit about what they want and how they feel, without imposing their wants or feelings on you.
<b>Hub:</b>				
Flexible–Cohering	able to coordinate your efforts with others in some common undertaking that involves closeness, clear lines of authority, and opportunity for self-reliance.	good team member who knows how to be a loyal follower, knows how to exercise authority, and knows when to follow the rules and when to use judgment.	clearly are flexible in their behavior and readily able to adapt to whatever the situation calls for.	generous in their help; who are strong and want you on their team; who are quite patient and don't lose their heads.
<b>Red-Blue:</b>				
Assertive–Nurturing	in a position to be genuinely helpful through your leadership, and are able to direct others for their own benefit.	strong and friendly person deserving of recognition and appreciation, and the opportunity to lead others for their betterment.	clearly understand the compassionate use of power, and the need to act promptly in matters affecting other people's welfare.	strong and decisive and know exactly what they want to do, and who ask for your support without imposing on you.
<b>Red-Green:</b>				
Judicious–Competing	in a position to compete using your own judgment, and to direct others in an impartial and efficient manner.	strong and principled person, deserving of recognition and respect, and the opportunity to provide competitive and rational leadership.	clearly understand the rational use of power, and the need to act promptly and judiciously in matters affecting your competitive edge.	supportive and loyal to you and who will help you, without hesitation or qualification, to attain success.
<b>Blue-Green:</b>				
Cautious–Supporting	able to nurture the growth of another person's self-reliance through your analysis of their needs.	warm and principled person who combines compassion and intellect into enlightened guidance for others.	clearly understand the employment of both feelings and reason to better the welfare and independence of others.	thoughtful and respectful of you and your goals and who are cautious and thorough in whatever they undertake on your behalf.

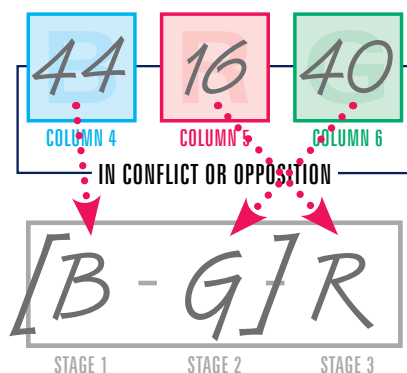
# Points of Comparison: Part 2

Motivational Value System	<i>Ideally, you would like to be . . .</i>	<i>Ideally, you would like to avoid ever being . . .</i>	<i>You feel distant from and somewhat contemptuous of people who . . .</i>	<i>You feel discomfort from people who . . .</i>
<b>Blue:</b>				
Altruistic–Nurturing	more assertive and less fearful of pushing for your own rights and wants; more capable of saying “No” to people who impose on you.	a selfish person or one who is cold and unfeeling about others.	constantly compete with and try to take advantage of others; are cold and unresponsive to gestures of friendliness.	treat you with anger and hostility, tell you to “go mind your own business,” or are slow to recognize your efforts to promote their welfare.
<b>Red:</b>				
Assertive–Directing	more considerate of other people’s feelings and rights; more given to thinking things through before committing yourself to a course of action.	a gullible person or a person who is indecisive and unable to act.	constantly lose out and don’t stand up for themselves; have a shell of reserve around them that you just can’t penetrate.	are all-forgiving and never fight back; don’t let you know what they expect as rewards from you and then withdraw their loyalty or betray you.
<b>Green:</b>				
Analytic–Autonomizing	more trusting of others and more open to them; less reserved about asserting your rights and wishes.	an overly emotional person or one who is exploitative of others.	never seem to take anything seriously; try to push their help on you or try to push you to do things their way.	accuse you of being opportunistic and unprincipled; push their help on you when you don’t want it.
<b>Hub:</b>				
Flexible–Cohering	more decisive, more methodical or more sensitive, depending on the situation.	subservient to others, domineering over others, and/or isolated from others.	are outsiders and who reject membership in your group’s efforts or withhold support for your group’s efforts.	commit themselves to the group effort and then let the group down by failing to live up to their commitments.
<b>Red-Blue:</b>				
Assertive–Nurturing	more contemplative and analytical in your decisions and more tenacious and prudent in pursuing your goals.	exploitative or inconsiderate of others or brazen and superficial in your interpersonal relations.	refuse to get involved; fear making a decision; are concerned with their needs to the exclusion of the needs of others.	treat you with indifference; ignore you; accuse you of exploiting people.
<b>Red-Green:</b>				
Judicious–Competing	more trusting and helpful with others and more open about your goals.	an impulsive or emotional person, or one without order and purpose in your life.	constantly lose out; lack self-reliance; are impetuous; are gullible and emotional.	treat you with passivity or with ignorance, or accuse you of mindless aggression.
<b>Blue-Green:</b>				
Cautious–Supporting	more assertive about your wants and more decisive about your actions.	isolated from others, or indecisive in matters affecting their welfare.	are braggarts and meddlers, and who presume upon and compete with others.	treat you with anger or disdain, or accuse you of fostering childlike dependence.

## Your Conflict Sequence™

Your Conflict Sequence sequence indicates changes in motivation and related behavior when faced with conflict and opposition. There are thirteen possible Conflict Sequences based on the order of the conflict totals.

The letters “B,” “R,” and “G” are shown in the order of your last three SDI result totals from highest to lowest. If any of your totals are six points or less apart, brackets are placed around those letters as in the example to the left.



Your Conflict Sequence is a predictable and sequential change in motivation when faced with conflict or opposition. Conflict has three progressively serious stages and can be resolved

at any point during the sequence. Letters within brackets suggests that your response during the bracketed stages can be blended or interchangeable.

Your Conflict Sequence can also be determined by the location of your “arrowhead” on the triangle.

## Preventing Conflict

Much of the interpersonal conflict people experience on a daily basis is preventable. While preventing conflict takes work, avoiding or ignoring conflict can cause damage to your relationships. Awareness of your own Motivational Value System and how it may differ from others is crucial to your ability to prevent conflict. When you deliberately relate to people in a way that respects their motivations, you increase the chance that conflict will be prevented.

Preventable conflict may be generated by overdoing one of your strengths. The table on the page titled “Managing Your Strengths” lists some strengths and the way they may appear when overdone. You will also find “things to be on guard against” which suggests some strategies for conflict prevention.

### INTERNAL EXPERIENCE IN CONFLICT

Conflict Stage	Focus is on:	BLUE	RED	GREEN
<b>Stage 1</b>	Self Problem Other	Simply being accommodating to the needs of others.	Simply rising to the challenge being offered.	Simply being prudently cautious.
<b>Stage 2</b>	Self Problem Other	Giving in and letting the opposition have its way.	Having to fight off the opposition.	Trying to escape from the opposition.
<b>Stage 3</b>	Self Problem Other	Having been completely defeated.	Having to fight for one's life.	Having to retreat completely.

### OBSERVABLE BEHAVIOR IN CONFLICT

Conflict Stage	BLUE	RED	GREEN
<b>Stage 1</b>	Accommodate others	Rise to the challenge	Be prudently cautious
<b>Stage 2</b>	Surrender conditionally	Fight to win	Pull back and analyze
<b>Stage 3</b>	Surrender completely	Fight for survival	Withdraw

# Conflict Sequences

## B-[RG]

a person who first pursues peace and harmony, and who continues to accommodate the opposition. If pressed far enough, they fall back on logically based and/or assertive strategies to preserve their integrity and to prevent complete defeat.

## B-R-G

a person who tries to maintain peace and harmony first and foremost. If this does not work, they then stand up for their rights. If this does not end the conflict, they then withdraw as a last resort.

## [BR]-G

a person who will press assertively for the maintenance of harmony and good will. If these efforts fail, they will eventually withdraw from the situation.

## R-B-G

a person who first meets conflict head-on with a strong self-assertion and challenge to the opposition. If this does not work, they then initiate efforts to restore and maintain harmony. If this does not end the conflict, they then withdraw as a last resort.

## R-[BG]

a person who is quick to assert their rights and to fight for them, but, if pressed far enough, they will either give in for the moment or break off contact, whichever is deemed the more advantageous.

## B-G-R

a person who wants most to keep harmony and good will. If this does not work, they try to disengage and save what can be saved. If this does not work, they then come out fighting, probably in an explosive manner.

## R-G-B

a person who comes out competing to prevail. If competition and challenge don't work, they fall back on analysis, logic, reason and rules. If this doesn't work, they will finally give in as a last resort.

## [BG]-R

a person who will strive to maintain peace and harmony yet with a careful eye toward the personal cost of doing so. If these efforts fail, they will finally fight for their rights, but only as a last resort and possibly explosively.

## [RG]-B

a person who meets conflict, not directly, but with a set of strategies for dealing with the situation. They "use their head to get their way." If pressed far enough, however, they finally give in and surrender.

## G-B-R

a person who first meets conflict with caution, examining the situation carefully and logically and waiting for all the facts to come in before making any commitments. If this does not work and there is no important principle involved, they would defer to the other person in the interest of harmony. If the conflict continues, they would come out fighting, but only as a last resort.

## [BRG]

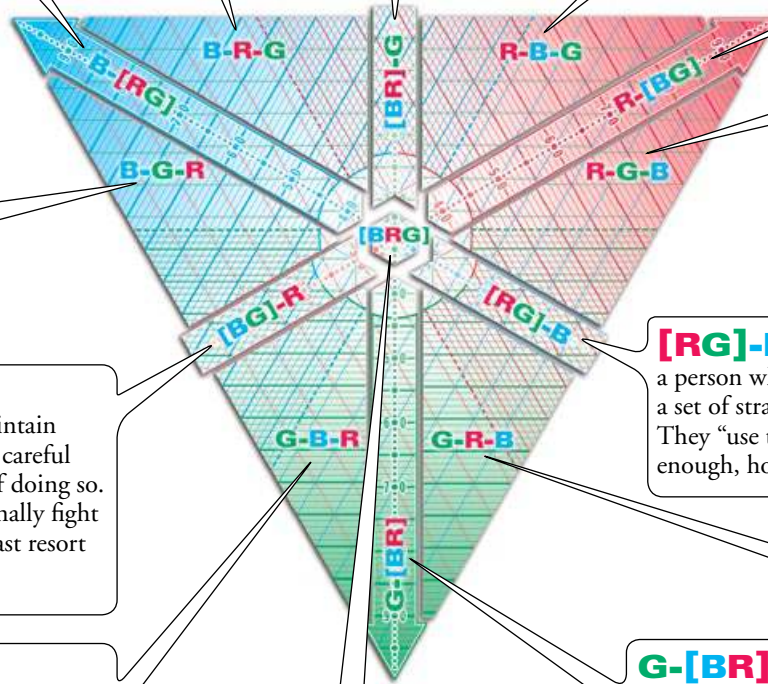
a person who meets conflict and opposition quite flexibly, that is, with an approach that differs according to the situation and circumstances rather than by a fixed sequence. This may prove to be confusing to others and they may experience the person as unpredictable.

## G-[BR]

a person who takes an initial stand in opposition to conflict on the basis of logic, order, rules and principles. If pressed far enough, they will take one or the other of two paths: if it is important, they will take up the fight; if it is unimportant, they will give in.

## G-R-B

a person who first tries the analytic, logical and reserved response to conflict followed by an assertive, forceful attack based on logic and strategies. If these approaches do not work, they then give in for the sake of harmony but only as a last resort.



## Blue: Altruistic–Nurturing

Characteristic Strength:	If Overdone Can Become...
Trusting	Gullible
Loyal	Blind
Helpful	Smothering
Modest	Self-effacing
Devoted	Subservient
Caring	Submissive
Supportive	Self-sacrificing

### THINGS TO BE ON GUARD AGAINST...

- Wanting so much to maintain harmony that I don't push for what I want
- Being so quick to believe in others that I don't use good judgment
- Being so loyal to others that I let them take advantage of me
- Expecting that everyone is going to be as concerned about how other people feel as I do
- Wanting to help others so much that I push my help on them and get in their way
- Being quick to blame myself first for anything that goes wrong
- Sharing my thoughts and feelings with people I shouldn't trust with them
- Fearing that if I said what I really feel about others, they would be hurt and not helped
- Struggling to maintain harmony at the expense of facing issues or of facing the facts
- Acting to please others just to be likeable

## Red: Assertive–Directing

Characteristic Strength:	If Overdone Can Become...
Self-confident	Arrogant
Ambitious	Ruthless
Persuasive	Abrasive
Forceful	Dictatorial
Quick to act	Rash
Competitive	Combative
Risk taker	Gambler

### THINGS TO BE ON GUARD AGAINST...

- Wanting so much to win that I step on others to get my own way
- Being in such a hurry to get things done that I disregard how others feel about things
- Being so sure I am right that I don't listen to other people
- Expecting that everyone is going to enjoy competing with me and pushing for what they want
- Wanting others to do things my way so much I become dictatorial
- Being quick to blame anything that goes wrong on a lack of cooperation
- Sharing only those thoughts and feelings that help me get my own way
- Fearing that if I said what I really feel, others would know how to take advantage of me
- Struggling to win an issue regardless of what the facts are or what other people might feel
- Acting to direct others just to exert my authority

## Green: Analytic–Autonomizing

Characteristic Strength:	If Overdone Can Become...
Cautious	Suspicious
Reserved	Cold
Methodical	Rigid
Analytical	Nit picking
Principled	Unbending
Fair	Unfeeling
Persevering	Stubborn

### THINGS TO BE ON GUARD AGAINST...

- Wanting so much to be certain that I delay in reaching decisions
- Being so concerned with what is right or wrong that I don't pay attention to people's feelings
- Being so cautious that I find it hard to place trust in others
- Expecting that everyone is going to be as concerned as I am with details, logic, and matters of principle
- Being so self-dependent that I cut myself off from people who like me and can be helpful
- Being quick to blame anything that goes wrong on my not having been cautious enough
- Keeping my thoughts and feelings to myself so others don't get to know me
- Fearing that if I said what I really feel, others would see me as illogical and emotional
- Struggling with the facts and issues with such determination that others' feelings are disregarded
- Acting to turn others away just to assert my self-dependence

## Hub: Flexible–Cohering

Characteristic Strength:	If Overdone Can Become...
Flexible	Wishy washy
Open to change	Inconsistent
Socializer	Unable to stand alone
Experimenter	Aimless
Adaptable	Spineless
Tolerant	Uncaring
Looks for options	Without any focus

### THINGS TO BE ON GUARD AGAINST...

- Wanting so much to be flexible that I am sometimes inconsistent
- Being so open-minded that I lose sight of what I really think
- Needing to be with others so much that I find it hard to be alone
- Expecting that everyone is going to be as concerned as I am with being a good team member
- Wanting to "fit in" so much that I impress others as having no real convictions
- Being quick to blame anything that goes wrong on a lack of team work
- Accepting other people's thoughts and feelings in place of my own
- Fearing that if I said what I really feel, others would see me as being rigid
- Struggling so hard to keep my options open I never take a clear line of action
- Acting to disagree with others just to show there are many ways to do things