**Leadership Styles**

**1. Autocratic Style**

The phrase most illustrative of an autocratic leadership style is "Do as I say." Generally, an autocratic leader believes that he or she is the smartest person at the table and knows more than others. They make all the decisions with little input from team members. This **leadership** style characterized by individual control over all decisions and little input from group members. **Autocratic leaders** typically make choices based on their ideas and judgments and rarely accept advice from followers.

## 2. Authoritative Style

The phrase most indicative of this style of leadership (also known as ["visionary"](https://www.americanexpress.com/en-us/business/trends-and-insights/articles/3-leadership-skills-that-separate-leaders-from-bosses)) is "Follow me." The authoritative leadership style is the mark of [confident leaders](https://www.americanexpress.com/en-us/business/trends-and-insights/articles/7-tips-to-help-boost-your-self-confidence/) who map the way and set expectations, while engaging and energizing followers along the way. **Authoritative leadership** refers to a management style where the **leader** is in complete control. An **authoritative leader** is one who sets the goals, determines the processes and oversees all steps it takes to reach those goals with little or no input from team members.

## 3. Democratic Style

Democratic leaders are more likely to ask "What do you think?" They share information with employees about anything that affects their work responsibilities. They also seek [employees' opinions](https://www.americanexpress.com/en-us/business/trends-and-insights/articles/do-your-employees-feel-empowered-to-share-honest-feedback/) before approving a final decision. **Democratic leadership**, also known as participative **leadership** or shared **leadership**, is a type of **leadership** style in which members of the group take a more participative role in the decision-making process

## 4. Laissez-Faire Style

The laissez-faire leadership style is at the opposite end of the autocratic style. Of all the leadership styles, this one involves the least amount of oversight. You could say that the autocratic style leader stands as firm as a rock on issues, while the laissez-faire leader lets people swim with the current. **Laissez**-**faire leadership**, also known as delegative **leadership**, is a type of **leadership** style in which **leaders** are hands-off and allow group members to make the decisions.

**5. Paternalistic Style**

These **leaders** strive to inspire their followers to redirect their thinking to achieve a certain goal. They can often motivate people to do more than the individual even thought possible. These **leaders** create a vision and inspire people to follow it.