3 Types of Leadership Styles

**Autocratic Leaders** –

* Provide clear expectations for what needs to be done, when it should be done, and how it should be done.
* There is also a clear division between the leader and the followers.
* Make decisions independently with little or no input from the rest of the group.
* Abuse of this style is usually viewed as controlling, bossy, and dictatorial.
* Best applied to situations where there is little time for group decision-making or where the leader is the most knowledgeable member of the group.
* Decision-making was less creative under this type.

**Democratic Leaders –**

* Generally the most effective leadership style.
* Offer guidance to group members, but they also participate in the group and allow input from other group members.
* Encourage group members to participate, but retain the final say over the decision-making process.
* Group members feel engaged in the process and are more motivated and creative.

**Delegative (Laissez-Faire) Leadership - Free rein**

Also known as laissez-fair leadership, were the least productive of all three groups.

* Made more demands on the leader, showed little cooperation and were unable to work independently.
* Offer little or no guidance to group members and leave decision-making up to group members.
* While this style can be effective in situations where group members are highly qualified in an area of expertise, it often leads to poorly defined roles and a lack of motivation.

Ref: http://psychology.about.com/od/leadership/a/leadstyles.htm