

What to do with your **DNA TEST RESULTS IN 2022**



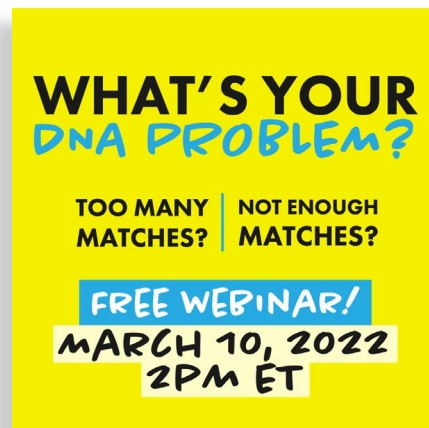
This is the handout for my three part series on the essential things you need to know about your DNA test results in 2022.

FREE WEBINAR!

“What’s your DNA Problem?”

March 10, 2022, 2pm ET

Some people have too many DNA matches and don’t know how to make sense of them. Some people don’t have enough DNA matches to answer their questions about finding living relatives or missing ancestors. Diahan Southard provides next steps for both situations. Register to watch live (or later)!

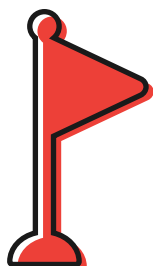


PART 1:

Get Started with Your DNA Test Results

Learn to navigate your DNA testing company website. Each one displays your results a little differently, and offers its own set of tools to help you understand what your DNA is telling you.

Choose your testing company to learn more:



Set a Goal

What do you hope to learn about your heritage from your DNA? You should have a specific question in mind—and it should be one that is appropriate to ask your DNA.

[What can I ask my DNA? What can it actually tell me?](#)

Do you want to identify unknown ancestors on your family tree? Watch this [two-minute video](#) on which ancestors you should look for using autosomal DNA testing.

Consider Ethnicity Results

Most people who test are curious about their ethnicity results. But some find them confusing or inaccurate. And over time, you'll notice that your ethnicity results change. What's that all about?!

PART 2:

Dig into Your DNA Matches

Your DNA matches people who have tested with the same DNA company and who share significant amounts of DNA with you. Analyzing your DNA matches may reveal who some of your relatives and/or ancestors are.

How am I related to my DNA match?

Shared DNA. Your first clue is the amount of DNA you share (measured in centimorgans, cM). Your amount of shared cM gives you a range of possible ways you are related to your match. [Learn how to interpret shared DNA.](#)

Shared DNA matches. Your second clue is to look at which other DNA matches are related to both of you. For example, if you and your mystery DNA match are both related to your mom's cousin on her father's side, then your mystery match is most likely related to you on that part of your family tree. [Learn how to use the shared matches tool.](#)

Some people become frustrated when their DNA matches don't respond to them. Has that happened to you?

Divide your DNA Match List into Groups

Your DNA match list can usually be divided into several groups that correspond to different branches of your family tree. Your matches divide into those who are related on your mother's side and those on your father's side. These can then be subdivided into four groups who represent the families of each of your grandparents. Then eight groups, representing the families of your great grandparents, and so forth.

Dividing your match list into genetic networks can empower you to:

1. See more specifically how any mystery DNA matches are related to you
2. Learn about the identities of unknown relatives

Learn step-by-step how to divide your DNA match list into genetic networks in [Your DNA Guide—the Book](#). In theory, it sounds straightforward. In practice, it takes some guidance.

Learn to Find your Generation of Connection

Part of learning how you and your DNA matches all fit together on your shared family tree is discovering your generation of connection with each one, or the generation in which you and a match share your most recent common ancestor. Maybe you share great grandparents. Or maybe

your great grandparents are your match's grandparents, if you and your match are removed cousins. ([What's a removed cousin?](#))

Learn how to find your generation of connection in [Your DNA Guide—the Book](#).

PART 3:

What's next? DNA strategies for 2022



Transfer Your DNA Test Results

Transferring your DNA test results to other DNA databases allows you to look for DNA matches who have tested with other companies. [Learn how to download your DNA test results and transfer them to other databases.](#)



Ask The Wife

This strategy, taught in *Your DNA Guide—the Book*, can help when you're trying to determine how you are related to your DNA matches, and especially where your Generation of Connection may be on a family tree.



Endogamy

Do you have endogamy on your family tree? Endogamy is when your ancestors from the same small population that intermarried repeatedly over many generations. For example, they all lived in a small, isolated town or belonged to a culture where people tended to intermarry with each other.

Can you imagine how endogamy can affect your DNA matching experience? You're supposed to be able to divide your matches into distinct networks representing different branches of your tree...and you can't.

If you discover endogamy on your family tree (and many people do), you'll need unique strategies to work with your DNA matches.

DO GENEALOGY!

DNA testing alone does not prove who your birth relatives or ancestors are, or how your matches are related to you. This process is called "genetic genealogy" for a reason: you need both! Many times during your DNA discovery process, you'll likely find yourself searching out old records and well-researched family trees to extend your family tree (and often the family trees of your DNA matches, too).