FamilySearch

How to Maximize Your DNA Test Results

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Once you have taken a DNA test, there are a couple of steps you can take to improve the effectiveness of your test, both so that you and also your DNA matches can find the common ancestor. This presentation is organized under the assumption that you took a test with AncestryDNA, but if you tested with a competitor, simply skip ahead to the MyHeritage section.

CREATE AND LINK YOUR TREE

1. To create a family tree on Ancestry.com use this link: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree
2. To link your tree to your DNA use this link: https://www.ancestry.com/dna/settings
   a. Click on "Linked Tree"
   b. Select your tree, and then select yourself

Remember to make this strictly a genetic tree and to mark deceased people as deceased even if you don't know the date. Otherwise only you can see them.

SHARE YOUR DNA

1. To designate an heir to your DNA use this link:
   https://www.ancestry.com/account/security/legacy-contact
2. To share your DNA results with friends and family use this link:
   https://www.ancestry.com/dna/settings
3. Click on DNA Test Sharing, type in their email address and pick the level of access you want to give

Viewer (Unlimited): Can see your DNA matches

Collaborator (Unlimited): Can see your DNA matches and contact them, add notes, and cluster them into groups

Manager (Only one): Can do everything a collaborator can and also download or delete the DNA

Download Your DNA

1. To download your raw data file use think link: https://www.ancestry.com/dna/settings
2. Click on your DNA test
3. Scroll to the bottom and click on "Download DNA Data"
4. Check the box, click continue, and enter your password or a code
5. You will get an email with a link once your raw data is ready. This makes it so someone cannot steal your raw data unless the hack both your Ancestry account and your email

Download Your Family Tree[1]

1. From any page on Ancestry.com, click the **Trees** tab and select a tree.
2. In the toolbar on the left, click **More (three dots)** and select **Tree Settings**.
3. On the right side of the Tree Settings page, under *Manage your tree*, click **Export tree**. If you see Download your GEDCOM file, skip to step 5.
4. Click **Export**. The button will begin spinning and say **Generating a GEDCOM file**.
5. When it stops spinning, click **Download Your GEDCOM File**. The file will be saved to your device. To open the GEDCOM file, you'll need an app or program that reads GEDCOM files.

MyHeritage

1. Create a free account at MyHeritage.com

2. Upload your family tree to MyHeritage by using this link: https://www.myheritage.com/import-gedcom/gedcom-file-upload/270937201

3. Upload your DNA by using this link: https://www.myheritage.com/dna/upload

4. To assign a collaborator or download your raw data click on this link: https://www.myheritage.com/dna/manage

   a. Click on the tree dots by your DNA kit

   b. Click on "Share DNA results with a collaborator"

   c. Type in their email address

5. To ensure you get an email notification when people message you click use this link: https://www.myheritage.com/FP/memberSitePreferences.php?s=270937201
   a. Scroll to the bottom and check the box that says "Email me greetings from family members"

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[1] Ancestry.com, *Uploading and Downloading Trees; Ancestry.com* (https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Uploading-and-Downloading-Trees?language=en_US: accessed 18 April 2025).

FamilyTreeDNA

1. Upload your DNA to FamilyTreeDNA by using this link:
    https://www.familytreedna.com/autosomal-transfer

2. Link your DNA to your MyHeritage family tree by using this link:
    https://www.familytreedna.com/my/genealogy

    After you link your tree use this link again to tell FamilyTreeDNA who you are in your tree

3. Assign a manager and a beneficiary by using this link:
    https://www.familytreedna.com/my/account-information

4. Download your raw data by using this link: https://www.familytreedna.com/my/family-finder-downloads

GEDMatch

1. Upload your DNA by using this link: https://app.gedmatch.com/dnaupload/
2. Upload your GEDcom by using this link:
    https://app.gedmatch.com/v_upload_gedcomx.php

23andMe

1. You cannot upload your DNA into 23andMe. You must test with them directly.
2. Provide a link to your family tree here:
    https://you.23andme.com/user/edit/personal/enhanced/
3. Change your settings so you get emails when relatives message you here:
    https://you.23andme.com/user/edit/preferences/
4. Download your raw data here: https://you.23andme.com/tools/data/download/

Key Points to Remember

1. Your DNA is a genealogical record. The more genealogical databases you can put it into the better.
2. Linking your family tree to your DNA results will improve both your ability to find your ancestors and it will also help your relatives who are researching their own problems find their ancestors as well.
3. You probably have a 3rd-8th cousin you don't know who was adopted and is looking for their family. Your DNA will help them.
4. Keep the tree linked to your DNA a genetic one. You can have a separate tree to research non-biological ancestors that you are interested in
5. You can share your DNA results with your close friends and family members so they can also use it to help with the genealogical research
6. If you do all the things listed in this presentation, your DNA will continue to benefit your family and the genealogical community long after you die. Even dead, I will still be finding my family.