

Developing Your Strength

Analytical

The genius of your Analytical talent begins with the way your mind works as it automatically formulates penetrating questions. Your questions have a common theme in that they are always “truth seeking.” Your genius Analytical questions seem to drill down with question after question until the truth is uncovered. Questions of “How you know...?”, “Why?”, “What evidence do you have...?” and “Can you prove it...?” are constantly in your mind. But these questions only lead to the deeper aspects of your genius Analytical talent and the ultimate genius of the Analytical talent involves the quality of your decisions, problem solving and planning capabilities. Armed with the information generated through your penetrating questions, you get to the rock-bottom issues that form a basis for the highest quality of real decision making, problem solving, and strategic planning. Moreover, your questions give you the facts and information needed for excellence in decision making and planning.

Adapted from “The Genius and Beauty found within The Clifton StrengthsFinder Themes of Talent,” by Edward C. Anderson

Applying Analytical Talents in Careers

- Many people who are exceptionally talented in the Analytical theme are good at weighing evidence.
- Ask good questions of people who are currently in careers that interest you. One hallmark of Analytical talents is the quality of your questions. Put that to good use in selecting a career.
- Talk to people who work in such fields as accounting, finance, sciences, forensics, computer technology, journalism, or other fields that involve data analysis or problem solving to find out what they enjoy most about their work.
- Explore jobs that allow you to make decisions based on your evaluation of facts, data, tangible evidence, and research findings.
- Environments that allow you the freedom to explore and think will allow your Analytical talents to flourish.
- Working with data and systems analysis, engaging in research, and critiquing ideas tend to bring out your best.

Adapted from StrengthsQuest website: www.strengthsquest.com

Career Plan of Action:

Applying Analytical Talents in Academics

General Academic Life

- Examine data, collect facts, and read material for discussions. Anticipate problems. Ask questions to discover others' perspectives on issues. Clarify your own position.
- Reduce situations, problems, opportunities, projects, assignments, and debates to their key components. Stay two to three steps ahead of everyone else's thinking by pinpointing cause-and-effect relationships.
- Prove to your classmates that there is an equal and opposite reaction to every action.
- Read assignments before class. Find information to support or discount the position taken by the author of the book.
- Reinforce your understanding of the subject matter by reorganizing and expanding your classroom notes. Insert subtopics and subpoints.

Study Techniques

- Notice the subtle nuances of a subject. Question the authors' conclusions. Flag topics for scrutiny. Refuse to accept blindly whatever appears on the printed page.
- Assess why you do quite well in one course but not as well in others. Evaluate your study habits, note taking, listening, capacity for asking questions, and reading comprehension.
- Record questions as you read. Ask: "What is missing here?" "What questions should the author have answered?" "What biases are evident and not so evident?"
- Make sense of discussions. Write what you heard and said. Identify comments, conclusions, and arguments that lack supporting facts or data.

Relationships

- Break down situations. How is the same set of facts likely to be interpreted by someone older than you? Younger than you? From a different cultural, ethnic, religious, socio-economic, or racial background?
- Identify your biases before taking sides on an issue. Evaluate your own thinking before challenging others' biases.
- Incorporate into your study group individuals who thoughtfully assess the value of information, details, research findings, evidence, people's comments, and events.
- Refrain from saying what is on your mind until you have figured out everything. Realize that this reduces the tension between yourself and others.

Class Selection

- Select professors with reputations for presenting lessons in a logical, sequential manner. Avoid instructors who present a confusing jumble of unrelated ideas, facts, theories, illustrations, or philosophies.
- Select courses that will use your talent for critical thinking. Be open to the sciences and mathematics as well.
- Consider the soundness, validity, and reliability of information presented in your textbooks and by your professors.
- Dismiss erroneous statements, flawed theories, and illogical conclusions, as well as prejudiced opinions. Risk being the solitary voice of reason.

Extracurricular Activities

- Gravitate to organizations known for their commitment to the use of logic and reason.
- Volunteer to serve on campus committees charged with proposing recommendations to key decision-making bodies such as the student senate, the school board, and the state legislature.
- Join the debate team. Delve deeply into the chosen topic. Fully research both sides of the issue. Prepare logical arguments from both perspectives. Continue to build both cases to clearly define strong positions.

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Academic Plan of Action:
