

Developing Your Strength Communication

The genius of your Communication talent is found in the profound fact that you can find words for your thoughts and your feelings. Whereas many people have lots of good ideas, they often stumble in finding the words that capture and convey their good thoughts. Even more people suffer from not being able to find the words that best describe and transmit their feelings. Yet, you can do this with ease. But the genius of your Communication talent doesn't end with your ability to find words for your thoughts and feelings. You can find words for the thoughts and feelings of others. This means that in interactions, you can help other people express their thoughts and feelings as is seen in the way that you can often complete people's sentences or find the word that they cannot find in expressing their feelings. As a result of these aspects of your Communication talent, you can form deep, meaningful and bonded relationships and help others do the same.

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

Applying Communication Talents in Careers

- Arrange to have conversations with people who are currently in careers that interest you. By hearing their stories, you will become better able to determine whether those environments and careers would suit your talents and interests.
- Go to career fairs at which you can interact with lots of different people about a great variety of roles.
- You might be a natural storyteller. Interview storytellers such as stand-up comedians, actors, motivational speakers, teachers, public relations specialists, politicians, ministers, and corporate trainers to see how they use their Communication talents in their daily work.
- Explore opportunities to serve as the spokesperson for an organization, product, political candidate, company, school district, hospital, or elected official. These opportunities would allow you to try out your Communication talents in roles that could meet some of the world's deep needs.
- Environments that allow for significant social interaction on a daily basis will allow your Communication talents to flourish. Steer clear of environments that do not offer this opportunity, as they might drain your energy.
- Cooperative, interactive, educational, and political environments are likely to bring out your best.

Adapted from StrengthsQuest website: www.strengthsquest.com

Career Plan of Action:

Applying Communication Talents in Academics

General Academic Life

- Participate in class discussions. Enhance your own and others' comprehension by talking through the key points.
- Respond to questions with thought-provoking answers.
- Illustrate scholarly concepts with real-life examples. Help others learn in the process.
- Capture your audience's interest by telling stories to amplify an idea, concept, theory, scientific law, philosophical point, ethical quandary, or historic event.

Study Techniques

- Converse about the subject matter until you fully understand it.
- Tell others about your solutions, theories, concepts, and ideas before presenting them in class. Acknowledge that this is how you refine your thinking.
- Notice how your classmates rely on you to engage the professor in dialogue. Realize that you are quite comfortable doing this.
- Entertain your study group with anecdotes that make history, mathematics, science, languages, or the arts come alive in their minds.

Relationships

- Take the pressure off quiet, timid individuals by doing most of the talking.
- Cheer up people with accounts of your own and others' humorous escapades.
- Plan at least four meetings each term with professors who are good listeners. Take advantage of the fact that they expect you to do most of the talking.
- Express your philosophical views, goals, pet peeves, and opinions so others can learn about you as a person.

Class Selection

- Take classes from professors who encourage students to interrupt lectures to share stories or offer examples that amplify a concept.
- Select classes in which you will be graded for participation in class discussions.
- Register for courses that require you to make presentations.
- Enroll in theatre arts, speech, and communications classes.

Extracurricular Activities

- Affiliate with a speakers' bureau in which the members address campus and community groups.
- Try out for the speech team. Concentrate on dramatic interpretation to hone your storytelling skills.
- Audition for plays even if you are not a theatre major.
- Campaign for elected office, or be a candidate's spokesperson.

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Academic Plan of Action:
