

Developing Your Strength

Strategic

The genius of your Strategic talent involves the way you think and generate alternatives. When faced with a problem or a dilemma, you can quickly generate multiple alternatives to circumvent obstacles that prevent your progress. Sometimes you think in a backwards manner by first visualizing the outcome you want to produce and then generating multiple alternative paths to get to that objective. But your genius of Strategic doesn't simply begin and end with generating alternatives. The real genius of this strength is found in the way that you can quickly sort through the various alternative paths and determine the one that will work best and most efficiently.

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

Applying Strategic Talents in Careers

- Picture yourself in a career that you love. What are you doing? What path did you take to create the opportunity? Working backward from your goal is often an effective strategy for you.
- Play out a variety of scenarios in your mind to help you decide which career to explore further. List the various paths possible in your future so you can give careful thought to each one.
- Environments that are flexible and encourage creative thought and strategy will bring out your best. Opportunities to see the big picture and plan new approaches will energize you.
- Your ability to create new programs and generate multiple alternatives will be an asset to any organization you join.
- Environments that allow originality and focus more on the outcome than on specific procedures will allow your Strategic talents to flourish.
- Interview people who work in psychology, law, and consulting. Learn what they find most rewarding about their work on a daily basis.

Adapted from StrengthsQuest website: www.strengthsquest.com

Career Plan of Action:

Applying Strategic Talents in Academics

General Academic Life

- Don't be afraid to be different. Discuss with professors the various approaches you can take to tackle an assignment.
- Participate in research, or develop your own research project.
- Search for ways to express your creative thinking.
- Opt for classes that encourage discussion and creative solutions.

Study Techniques

- Reflect and write down your ideas for possible solutions to problems.
- In group settings, work with others to generate new ideas or clarify your own.
- Be creative in your studying. Make up games or develop mnemonic devices and anecdotes to relate information.
- Do more than is expected. It is not difficult for you to expand on an idea, and you will learn more about the subject.

Relationships

- Seek a leadership role in a group. You see the path to success more clearly than many.
- As you seek to achieve your leadership goals, always have your followers in mind.
- Encourage friends to call on you to devise the best way to achieve their goals.

Class Selection

- Consider taking an independent-study class. Your Strategic talents can help you work on your own.
- Consider elective classes with subject matter that lends itself to strategic thinking, like engineering or marketing.
- Choose classes that emphasize alternative ideas or solutions.

Extracurricular Activities

- Consider running for an elected office and confidently state your ideas.
- Participate in cultural activities and exchanges to better understand the world around you.
- Find organizations that need your planning abilities.

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Academic Plan of Action:
