

## Developing Your Strength

# Command

The genius of your Command talent begins with the fact that you can and will impact others, and you will do so with great power. Your genius strength of Command gives you great courage to boldly enter into a crisis and dangerous situations. It is as if you have even more clarity of thought about what needs to be done when there is an emergency. You have the courage to step in and take charge when people are threatened and when there are threatening circumstances. In emergencies, you have clarity, a willingness to voice your ideas and people appreciate your willingness to step up and confront dangers. In these situations you will impact all around you. Similarly, you are willing to see the way through conflicts and misunderstandings by bringing to light what is often hidden. While some get nervous because you can be so powerful, everyone is grateful when your strength of Command addresses emergencies, crises, conflicts, and danger.

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

## Applying Command Talents in Careers

- Explore your career options by trying out various roles in part-time jobs or volunteer work.
- Seek to hone your Command talents by filling formal or informal leadership roles in organizations. Ask for feedback from others in the group.
- Leverage your persuasiveness when choosing a career. Talk to people in fields such as law, sales, politics, or theatre about how they use their persuasive talents to succeed.
- Investigate careers that offer upward mobility. You probably are unlikely to be intimidated by others — including people in positions considered superior to yours.
- Assume a role that permits you to create and control your own and others' work. Environments that encourage your leadership will bring out your best.
- Your comfort in "calling the shots" can be especially useful in crises. Environments that regularly deal with crises or rapid decision making will allow your Command talents to flourish.

Adapted from StrengthsQuest website: [www.strengthsquest.com](http://www.strengthsquest.com)

## Career Plan of Action:

# **Applying Command Talents in Academics**

## **General Academic Life**

- Ask probing and pointed questions during discussions and lectures by professors. Realize that your questioning mind accelerates your learning.
- Take charge of your college education. Play the lead role in shaping your degree or certification plan.
- Challenge facts presented in textbooks, the media, and class presentations. Critique your instructors and classmates. Search for the truth.
- When a particularly interesting class discussion is ended due to time constraints, express to your professor your wish that he or she would continue the discussion in an office visit.

## **Study Techniques**

- Join study groups known for debating ideas, theories, and problems.
- Use your Command talents to clarify rather than intimidate. Understand that some clear-thinking individuals may become flustered under pressure.
- Give your instructors feedback about what you most enjoy and benefit from in their classes.
- Develop hypotheses and thesis statements that you must defend in writing or oral presentations. Recognize that you are more engaged when you must build a case to support your ideas.
- Play devil's advocate — that is, argue the opposing view — for fun and benefit when the opportunity arises. Warn people that you like to draw others into debates.

## **Relationships**

- Assume the leadership role in groups, especially when you have knowledge, skills, expertise, and experience others lack.
- Study your mannerisms, vocal tone, and content of your messages when talking with authority figures. Pinpoint how you present yourself as a person worthy of their time and undivided attention.
- Explore ways that you can serve others by giving orders and making demands. Identify individuals who are comfortable and content following your lead.

## **Class Selection**

- Take classes in which you are expected to voice your opinions, argue, draw conclusions, take sides, and make recommendations.
- Choose classes taught by instructors who take a position and demand that students challenge it.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

- Gravitate to organizations in which you can envision yourself being a key decision maker.
- Realize that you threaten some people with your forceful style.
- Opt to participate in activities where you must persuade people to embrace your ideas, plans, solutions, or philosophies.
- Join groups in which you are expected to sell products and services, solicit donations, and raise money.

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## **Academic Plan of Action:**
