

Developing Your Strength

Futuristic

The genius of your Futuristic talent begins with your incredible ability to see the future. Your ability to envision the future provides an unusual and creative way of planning and problem solving. When confronted by a problem, you will envision where you are heading and then structure your problem solving so that each solution provides a stepping stone into the future. Likewise, all planning is done in light of the visions you have about the future. Of course your Futuristic talent genius gives you a powerful basis for leadership. Your visions of the future will excite the imagination of others, and they will be inspired because of what your genius of Futuristic can help them see. Make your visions known to everyone because they give others hope and optimism.

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

Applying Futuristic Talents in Careers

- Your ability to imagine a preferred future can be applied to the career planning process. Imagine yourself on graduation day – and five years after that. What are you doing? How did you create the opportunity?
- Volunteer in an organization where you can help create the future, painting vivid pictures for those who work there, helping them see the role they will take in making this vision become reality.
- Use the connections you establish in your jobs during college to network for the career you envision for yourself after graduation.
- Choose a career in which you can help others envision the future and inspire them to create it.
- You are capable of investing lots of time in producing original or creative works. Environments that reward vision and creativity, allowing you freedom to dream and invent, are likely to enable your Futuristic talents to flourish.
- Talk to architects, designers, commercial artists, city planners, and others whose careers provide the opportunity to envision the future. Ask them what they most enjoy about their work.

Adapted from StrengthsQuest website: www.strengthsquest.com

Career Plan of Action:

Applying Futuristic Talents in Academics

General Academic Life

- Take risks to gain new insights, even if they are out of your comfort zone. Set academic goals to project yourself into a successful future.
- Challenge professors with your “What if?” thinking. Encourage them to project beyond to what “might be” in 10, 15, or 20 years.
- Know what is expected in each of your classes so you will be able to plan your college years. Visit your academic counselor regularly to keep stretching your thoughts.
- Associate with others who enjoy philosophizing about the future.

Study Techniques

- Try to truly understand what you’re studying; don’t just memorize. Always relate what you’re studying to where you see yourself in the future.
- Write a description of your desired future, and post it where you will notice it frequently. Look at it often, and connect what you are learning to where you want to go.
- Take exams seriously and prepare thoroughly. Treat them as steps toward your future.
- Join a group in which you can lead others to create new visions of the future.

Relationships

- Talk about your goals and dreams with your friends, family and professors. Their awareness of your objective will be a motivator.
- Surround yourself with people who will be instrumental in attaining your aspirations. Form strong relationships that can last a long time.
- Encourage younger people who are interested in the same things you enjoy.
- Don’t let other people’s negative comments about your dreams dissuade you from reaching toward them.

Class Selection

- Choose classes that will apply to your career goals.
- Pinpoint professors who are futuristic in their thinking, not those who merely maintain the status quo.
- Risk taking a class that will push you to the edge in your thinking.

Extracurricular Activities

- Join a committee that has a forward-thinking leader who can stretch you beyond day-to-day events.
- Look for internships that will challenge your thinking and help you reach beyond your current level.
- Keep others in your group focused on what can be, frequently sharing the vision you see.
- Join a group that believes that it can have a positive effect on the future.

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Academic Plan of Action:
