

Developing Your Strength

Input

The genius of your Input talent is based on your curiosity. It is as if your curiosity knows no limits. You want to know about everything. Question after question propels you to learn more and more. You want facts, information, concepts, and principles. You become excited by your own questions and even more excited when you find answers to your questions. Sometimes you turn your curiosity to people and want to learn as much as possible about them, but for the most part, you are driven to learn in general and in specialized areas of knowledge. As you learn, you try to keep your acquired facts organized, but this is a challenge since you continue to collect more and more information, and there is simply much to learn. Finally, the genius of your Input talent wants to share what you have learned. You can be a great communicator of what you have learned, and you get really excited about telling others about the latest thing you have learned.

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

Applying Input Talents in Careers

- Collect as much information as you can about the careers that interest you. Go online, read books, collect all the brochures at the career center and at career fairs. The more information you gather, the better your decision will be.
- Go to the career center and take several different career inventories. What does each one tell you about your interests? What career possibilities do they suggest that you explore?
- Environments that give you the freedom to pursue threads of information and that focus on informed decision-making are likely to bring out your best.
- You probably will enjoy a career in which you are always on the cutting edge of knowledge and you can gather and share valuable pieces of relevant information.
- Choose jobs that require you to be an expert collector and consumer of research. This type of environment will energize you.
- Interview media specialists, librarians, archivists, writers, information technologists, and others who work with large amounts of information on a daily basis. What do they find most rewarding about their work?

Adapted from StrengthsQuest website: www.strengthsquest.com

Career Plan of Action:

Applying Input Talents in Academics

General Academic Life

- Save all notes and books from previous classes to create a personal library.
- Schedule time for seeking information that goes beyond what is required for your classes. The library and the Internet will be valuable in your search.
- You enjoy gathering information, possible even from reading a dictionary or encyclopedia.
- Start a filing system for interesting and potentially useful articles you have read.

Study Techniques

- Give yourself research deadlines within your overall timelines for completing papers. Without them, you might continue to read and read, never feeling like you have enough information.
- To continue making progress and stay on track while doing required work, put sticky notes on at which areas you wish to go back and look.
- Prioritize the most critical information to study. Otherwise, you might become distracted by other information that fascinates you but is not as relevant.

Relationships

- Share your information with friends. Determine who would be interested in each bit of information, rather than giving all information to everyone.
- Seek out professors who would be interested in knowing what you are learning and will find it stimulating to hear about the questions you are generating through your investigations.
- Be aware that the more you know, the more likely it is that others will seek you out for information and see you as highly credible.

Class Selection

- Select classes taught by professors who are well read and who keep up to date on the latest research in their fields.
- Select classes that help you increase your general knowledge base. That would include classes in which research is valued.
- Select classes in which class discussion is valued and in which you can share your ideas and the information that you have gleaned.

Extracurricular Activities

- Join groups in which you can use your knowledge, such as community discussion groups, book clubs, and pre-law society mock trial groups.
- Become involved in extracurricular activities that further your learning, such as science clubs, language clubs, or literary organizations.
- Study about fascinating places to travel. Gather information, and go!

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Academic Plan of Action:
