

Developing Your Strength

Intellection

The genius of your Intellection talents stems from the quality of your thinking. You think about ideas, concepts, and principles in great depth. It is as if you hold discussions in your mind about ideas, concepts, observations and new learnings. This results in deep learning, deep understanding, and deep appreciation for the best knowledge. Out of this deep processing, you often come to new insights and understandings. But the greatest aspect of the genius of your Intellection is the wisdom that you gain from your in-depth thinking and internal discussions. You can think by yourself for hours, but never doubt what results: wisdom, clarity and a firm foundation for action planning and decision making.

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

Applying Intellection Talents in Careers

- Read, read, read! Gather books on careers that interest you, read biographies of people in careers that fascinate you, read all the brochures and books available at the career center. Then go online and read some more. Through your reading you will come to a better sense of clarity about the career options that fit you best.
- Think about the times in your life when you have felt best about your accomplishments. In your journal, write about what you did that contributed to those accomplishments and how you used your talents in each instance. Later, look for patterns in what you wrote.
- A work environment where you have time and space to think and reflect before responding will bring out your best. A fast-paced environment where there is pressure to sell or to follow routine procedures will not be as comfortable for you as one that allows and rewards thought and reflection.
- Select work in which you can share ideas and pose questions. Avoid environments where you cannot challenge the status quo or where operating procedures are completely rigid.
- Environments in which you can interact with colleagues and have philosophical debates will be most satisfying to you and enable you to be productive.
- Choose work that will challenge you intellectually. Talk to editors, theologians, or philosophy professors on campus. Ask what their work is like.

Adapted from StrengthsQuest website: www.strengthsquest.com

Career Plan of Action:

Applying Intellection Talents in Academics

General Academic Life

- Ask questions and seek answers in discussions and lectures.
- Research subjects that interest and intrigue you.
- Contemplate academic goals and endeavors.
- Make your education even more effective by following your intellectual curiosity. As you allow yourself to ask the questions that naturally come to you, you will refine your approach to learning and studying.

Study Techniques

- Take time to think and plan before writing a paper or performing an assignment.
- Study to understand and learn, not just to memorize.
- Take part in study groups that allow you to verbalize and further define your thoughts.
- Practice presenting ideas that matter to you.

Relationships

- Get to know your professors, and engage them in discussions.
- Try to meet people who share the same interests, and create intellectual conversations with them.
- Surround yourself with intellectually stimulating people, and confidently converse with them. You can contribute to their lives as well as they can to yours.

Class Selection

- Take classes that promote intellectual and analytical thought.
- Choose professors whose reputations indicate that they demand careful thinking.
- Study course syllabi to know how much thinking you might have an opportunity to do.

Extracurricular Activities

- Join clubs that allow you to be part of stimulating conversations.
- Read and collect books that pique your curiosity.
- Attend conferences and debates about the subjects in which you are most interested.

Adapted from StrengthsQuest website: www.strengthsquest.com

Academic Plan of Action:
