

Developing Your Strength

Deliberative

The genius of your Deliberative talent is found in the quality of your decisions, choices, values, and the directions you decide to pursue. Your Deliberative genius involves thinking and the fact that you will take multiple things into consideration every time you make a decision or a plan. The genius of your Deliberative talent allows you to look at an issue from multiple sides. You will “play the devil’s advocate” as you think through alternatives, values, and propositions, and you will look at multiple sides as you are learning. You will slow down the process whenever you are learning, planning or deciding. But this does not mean you are “slow minded.” Quite the opposite. This is part of your genius and results in very high quality decisions and a depth of understanding.

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

Applying Deliberative Talents in Careers

- Collect as much information as you can about the careers that interest you. Search occupational handbooks, lists in occupational guides, and online sources. Take the time to think things through, possibly listing the pros and cons of careers that interest you.
- Environments in which you can independently conduct thorough analysis are likely to help you be most effective.
- You likely are a good questioner of actions, helping others to think through their decisions before moving ahead too quickly.
- You tend to be a private person, so environments where people are known for being discreet and trustworthy will likely bring out your best. Environments that expect a lot of socializing or interpersonal interaction or that demand persuasion or selling will not be as comfortable for you.
- Explore the roles of risk analysts, financial officers, judges, and others whose work benefits from careful thinking and deliberation.

Adapted from StrengthsQuest website: www.strengthsquest.com

Career Plan of Action:

Applying Deliberative Talents in Academics

General Academic Life

- Attend all lectures and class sessions — make sure you don't miss anything. Be thorough in your preparation for a class by reading ahead and reviewing class notes to avoid being caught off guard.
- Before visiting a professor during office hours, prepare thoroughly by making a list of items and questions you wish to discuss.
- Meet regularly with your counselors to be well aware of your options and to make sure you are on track.
- When you receive a class syllabus, highlight the due dates of readings, assignments, papers, and tests. You may feel more comfortable knowing everything that will be required of you.
- Always be well prepared for class. You will feel more comfortable and confident talking in class when you are sure of the validity of what you have to say and the completeness of your thoughts.
- When taking a test, go through the questions slowly, concentrating on the ones you are more certain of first. Address the others later so that you have time to complete the exam.

Study Techniques

- Know your reading pace, and set aside plenty of time to finish reading assignments. Take notes on what you read, and study your notes for exams.
- Work extra problems just to be sure you understand the material.
- If you work best alone, study on your own before engaging in group discussions. This will allow you to reinforce what you have learned with the group, without needing to rely on the group.
- Form questions as you study, and make sure you have answers to them before taking an exam.

Relationships

- Choose friends who have academic goals similar to yours; reinforce one another in your serious pursuit of studying.
- Make frequent visits during office hours to develop relationships with one or two professors whose advice you feel you can trust.
- When forming study groups, be selective about whom you study with. Choose responsible, serious people like yourself who will be well prepared and focus on the task at hand.

Class Selection

- Before choosing a class, look at the class syllabus, check the number of books, and learn more about the professor.
- Double check with your advisor to ensure that a class meets the requirements that you need.
- You are most comfortable in classes where you are well aware of expectations, where the discussions are serious, and where the time is used well.

Extracurricular Activities

- Look carefully at the many organizations or clubs that you might join to pinpoint those that pique your interest. Attend a couple of meetings to narrow down to one or two that seem to fit you best.
- Rely on your own judgment to know the types of activities that will be most enjoyable to you. Purely social activities without further purpose will most likely feel like a waste of time to you.
- Look for job opportunities and internships in which you will be recognized for your seriousness and your ability to raise questions about decisions that are made.

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Academic Plan of Action:
