

Developing Your Strength Learner

The genius of your Learner talent begins with the fact that you love to learn in many areas. It doesn't matter to you what you are learning, just so that you keep on learning something each and every day. But the genius of your learning doesn't stop there. You have thought a lot about the learning process. You know how you learn and you know what best contributes to you learning effectively and efficiently. This self-understanding provides a basis for understanding and helping others learn. With little effort, you can analyze the learning habits of others and think through how they can learn most effectively. Based on this understanding of the learning process in yourself and others, you can establish ingenious programs and services to help others become better learners, high achievers, and be better prepared for the future.

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

Applying Learner Talents in Careers

- Go to the career center on your campus and take several different career inventories. What does each one tell you about your interests? What career possibilities do they suggest for you to explore? Your enjoyment of this self-discovery can motivate and guide you as you begin the career planning process.
- Talk to your career counselor about the career planning process. Ask them how they made the decision to pursue their career. Learning about their strategies will provide you with possible tools for your own learning process.
- Read and study all the career possibilities that interest you. Research each one and learn what it's really like to be in those careers over a long period of time.
- Choose a work environment that encourages constant learning or where study is a way of life.
- Environments that value the learning process will bring out your best, particularly if you will have opportunities to develop strengths.
- Many college professors have exceptional Learner talents. Interview your favorite professors about what they find rewarding in their work.

Adapted from StrengthsQuest website: www.strengthsquest.com

Career Plan of Action:

Applying Learner Talents in Academics

General Academic Life

- Keep a journal in which you reflect on what you learned from your classes and other experiences.
- Read outside material that is related to your courses. This approach will not only impress the professor; it also will help you develop a better understanding of the subject.
- Exceed expectations. Do more than the syllabus requires of you.
- Look at every situation as a possible learning experience. This approach will help you become aware of what you do well and where you need help.
- Always ask, "What did I learn from this?"

Study Techniques

- Join study groups that challenge you.
- Study in an environment that allows you to get into a "study mood." This approach allows you to get the most out of your studies.
- Figure out questions that will be asked, and practice answering them in preparation for discussions and exams.

Relationships

- Identify classmates who share your thirst for knowledge, and get to know them.
- Have lots of conversations on subjects you are passionate about with people who are interested in learning.
- Build relationships with those from whom you want to learn.

Class Selection

- Choose challenging courses that will broaden your knowledge base in important areas.
- Enroll in college honors and departmental honors classes.

Extracurricular Activities

- Choose on-campus jobs that will provide learning experiences, such as working as a professor's assistant.
- Don't restrict your learning experiences to the classroom. Engage in activities in which you can expand your knowledge about subjects that interest you most.
- Find opportunities to work with faculty to make your college experience more meaningful. It will deepen your understanding of intellectual topics, concepts, and principles.

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Academic Plan of Action:
