

Developing Your Strength

Significance

The genius of your Significance talent begins and ends with the difference you are determined to make. You cannot stand the thought of living and dying and there being no difference. You are bound and determined to make a difference and you want that difference to be significant. There is great energy, power, determination, and motivation within you to make a significant and lasting difference in the world. While others may consider you egotistical, this is not your motive. You want to make a significant difference because there is a lot wrong in the world and you are trying to make the world better. At the same time, you want to be recognized for the difference you make. But the difference you make is the driving force.

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

Applying Significance Talents in Careers

- Think about people you admire and what they have in common. Talk to them about the work they do and what they find rewarding about it. Ask them to give you feedback about your own goals and strategies for meeting them.
- Significant people do significant things. Imagine the legacy you want to leave. Picture yourself at retirement, looking back on a life that has made the world a better place. What will you have done to accomplish that?
- Environments in which you and your significant contribution are visible to others and in which you receive recognition for a job well done are likely to bring out your best.
- Knowing you've made a significant contribution is important to you. Volunteer in organizations where you can make that difference and where your efforts will be appreciated.
- Seek opportunities to work with people you respect because they are professional, credible, and successful.
- Environments in which you are given flexibility to do things your own way are likely to bring out your best.
- Identify the specific talents that will help you make an extraordinary contribution to your workplace, and create opportunities to build on them.

Adapted from StrengthsQuest website: www.strengthsquest.com

Career Plan of Action:

Applying Significance Talents in Academics

General Academic Life

- Think about why a particular class is important to your future.
- Identify three of your personal goals and connect them to your academic life.
- Take control of your life, beginning with your education.
- Create a list of goals that will bring you great satisfaction in your personal life. Then consider how college can help you reach those goals.

Study Techniques

- Take a leadership role in a study group.
- Choose to study with other hard-charging classmates.
- Establish relationships with your professors so they know who you are and of your interest in achieving.

Relationships

- Associate with professors and students whose interests and goals are similar to your own.
- You want people to know who you are. Become friends with people in your classes by initiating conversations with them.
- You want people to appreciate your work, but if appreciation is not shown, don't give up. Work even harder.

Class Selection

- Choose classes that offer you some independence.
- Select classes relevant to your goals and desires.
- Select classes in which you can be highly successful.

Extracurricular Activities

- Take part in activities that display and make use of your confidence — make public appearances, climb mountains.
- Run for an elected office.

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Academic Plan of Action:
