Zacary Harmon Performance Assessment 2 D596

Questions are in **bold.** My responses are formatted normally.

**A.  Provide a PDF copy of your "Signature Themes" report after completing the CliftonStrengths assessment.**

**1.  Provide a self-reflection on the results of the five categorical strengths from your CliftonStrengths assessment.**

My top strength was Developer. This is all about developing others and helping them achieve their fullest success. This coincides with my life because I have been a summer camp counselor, a music teacher, a tutor, and many roles involving helping and assisting others. This could translate, in the tech sphere, to being successful in a manager or trainer position.

My second was harmony. This strength is all about agreement and not wasting time on conflict, rather focusing on solutions. This is very like me, I am very against unnecessary conflict. An argument or bout of conflict is a sign that one or both parties lack the necessary communication skills to express their point clearly and compromise if necessary. This is something I can bring forward in my career by building strong relationships within my workplace and using my skills to mediate conflict and maintain efficiency.

My next was empathy. This strength was all about understanding others’ emotions and intentions. This is similar to myself, as I mentioned, I have been in a multitude of human-facing and emotion-forward roles. This can be carried forward to my career in tech by making myself a great leader and teammate who can connect with my colleagues.

My fourth strength was positivity. This was about always keeping a good spirit. Again, this matches with my personality and experiences. I can bring this forward in my life to be a great colleague and leader for those around me and bring some joy to everyday life.

My last strength was connectedness. This was about how we as a species are all connected to one another. I do believe this, and this strength ties into all of my other strengths as we are all cut from the same cloth, we are all humans trying to succeed, so how can you not care for one another? This will be an especially helpful mindset moving forward as I can be a relatable and positive force on any team and contribute, not just with my technical skills, but also with my strong positive attitude.

**B.  Describe three different roles or careers in data analytics.**

Data engineer is a role that designs and implements data storage solutions for any task. They are the people who design every database and structure that holds data.

Data scientist is a role that uses math and computer programming to help analyze business decisions and predict future trends and insights.

Data analyst is a role that collects and analyzes data looking for trends and insights to inform business decisions.

1. **Discuss the differences between the roles or careers from part B.**
   1. Each role is very different. Data engineers are different from data scientists and data analysts because they do not generally analyze the data they are storing. Both data scientists and data analysts rely on the databases created by data engineers to do their jobs.
   2. Data scientists use advanced algorithms and mathematics to not just analyze data but also predict future market trends and data shifts. This is what separates them from data analysts. Data analysts will work with data currently present, while scientists will use historical data and programming models to predict future trends.
   3. Lastly, data analysts gather and analyze data to explore it for trends and insights.
2. **Identify the academic skills and needs for *each* data analytics role or career described in part B.**
   1. Data engineers do not require a degree but would benefit from degrees, internships, and portfolios to stand out.
   2. Data scientists do not require a degree but generally require higher education due to the complexity of the role. Internships, personal projects, and a strong portfolio will all make for a stronger candidate as well.
   3. Data analysts are the easiest of the three to attain. They generally do not require a degree but rather a portfolio showcasing the required skills.
3. **Describe how *each* role from part B supports the data analytics life cycle.**
   1. Data engineers allow not just data analytics to be possible, but also daily business operations. Without databases, most large businesses would collapse. This is supported in the data acquisition, data cleaning, data mining, and data visualization steps of the data life cycle because almost every step of the life cycle uses a database.
   2. Data scientists support the life cycle in the data exploration and predictive modeling sections of the life cycle. They are the roles that work with advanced algorithms and machine learning models to predict data shifts and trends.
   3. Data analysts support the life cycle through the data acquisition, data cleaning, data exploration, and reporting and visualization steps. They support the brunt of the basic analysis and cleaning work.

**C.  Identify a potential career goal in your career plan based on your strengths and academic/MSDA track interests.**

I would love to be a data engineer and build databases and work with data.

1. **Reflect on how your personalized CliftonStrengths assessment results in the five categories relate to the career goal identified in part C.**
   1. My Clifton strengths assessment aligns with my career goals in an administrative way. The strengths I have are all based around connecting with other people, which I can leverage to become a very successful manager or administrator. This can align with my career goal by becoming a data engineer team manager or project manager for a data analytics team.

**D.  Acknowledge sources, using in-text citations and references, for content that is quoted, paraphrased, or summarized.**

All information was sourced from the WGU course material.

**E.  Demonstrate professional communication in the content and presentation of your submission.**

Thank you for your time in grading my assignment. I look forward to your feedback.