

CliftonStrengths® for Students

Welcome to CliftonStrengths for Students, the report that guides you through your unique talents and how you can use those talents to succeed in your role.

We designed this report to make your days easier, bring clarity to your role as a student and help you thrive academically, socially and in your future career.

Use this report to learn about your results and better understand what you naturally do best as a student. Then, go implement the action items into your role responsibilities — starting today.

YOUR TOP FIVE THEMES

1. Futuristic

Share your visions of a better future.

2. Analytical

Use your logical, objective approach to make important decisions.

3. Learner

Use your passion for learning to add value to your own and others' lives.

4. Connectedness

Help others see connections and purpose in everyday life.

5. Strategic

Always have at least three options in mind so you can adapt if circumstances change.

Each Theme Fits Into a Leadership Domain

■ **EXECUTING** themes help you make things happen.

■ **INFLUENCING** themes help you take charge, speak up and make sure others are heard.

■ **RELATIONSHIP BUILDING** themes help you build strong relationships that hold a team together.

■ **STRATEGIC THINKING** themes help you absorb and analyze information that informs better decisions.

Your Strongest Future Begins Here



- 1. Futuristic
- 2. Analytical
- 3. Learner
- 4. Connectedness
- 5. Strategic

This time in your life is filled with choices, changes and challenges. Being a student requires so much of your time and energy — and no two students have the same experience, which means there must be more than one way to succeed. We know that the best way to build a foundation for success, both as a student and well into the future, is by using your strengths.

Your distinct CliftonStrengths profile sets you apart from every other student. Above is your talent DNA, shown in order based on your responses to the assessment.

Learn About Your Most Powerful Strengths

This report outlines how your natural strengths give you an advantage during your time as a student. But to fully understand your talent DNA, you must know that your top five themes — the ones that shine through in almost everything you do — are the *most powerful*. Take the time to learn more about them.

Discover Practical Ways to Apply Them

Incorporate your strengths into your day-to-day routine: from choosing your class schedule and creating study habits to investing in extracurricular activities and relationships with classmates.

Each theme page includes:

- **How that theme contributes to your success**
- **How that theme could get in the way of your success**
- **Action items that you can implement immediately**

Use Them

You have strengths that are already within you; it's your specific talents, along with how you use them, that gives you your power and edge over others. Regardless of what you're doing in academia and where you're going next, you'll need to truly use and develop your strengths to create long-term and sustainable success.



STRATEGIC THINKING

1. Futuristic

You are inspired by the future and what could be. You energize others with your visions of the future.

How This Theme Contributes to Your Success

You are always thinking about the future. This means you hardly do anything without thinking first of its implications. You have a vision that goes beyond your time in school. Because of this, you have an energetic, creative perspective that keeps you excited and dreaming. This joy may show up often at the beginning of a new semester because of the new possibilities.

Because you can envision long-term goals, you know what you should do today to achieve them. You can prioritize your current tasks because what you see in the future informs your decisions. Whether it is a class, an area of study or an extracurricular activity, you know what to do to get to the next step.

You appreciate visibility, meaning you always want to know what's coming next to prepare for it. You enjoy an organized syllabus that details the coming weeks and months, and you appreciate lesson overviews or summaries of expectations from teachers. These help you to be strategic about how you'll work and what you'll work on first.

How This Theme Could Get in the Way of Your Success

- While you may know the steps to take to achieve your goals, you might need more motivation to complete those tasks. In fact, you may become overwhelmed by the amount of time or effort that stands between you and the future you want. It may take many years of school, multiple internships, changing jobs or more to reach your goal, which can feel discouraging.
- Others may have a tough time understanding what you're saying. Your focus on the future may make you sound like too much of a dreamer. This is true especially during group projects or in your clubs or extracurricular activities. Others may think you share too broad a vision for the future and see you as someone who can't focus on the current task.
- You may have a hard time staying in the present, and others might see you as distracted. Your friends, academic advisor, teachers or others may get frustrated because they feel like they are less important than the thoughts in your head. In fact, you may appear overly optimistic about what's next and could even ignore the existing challenges.

ACTION ITEMS

How to Apply Futuristic as a Student

This theme gives you an edge — here's how you can use it.

- ☐ **Schedule a few minutes each day to enjoy the moment you're in.** Really consider where you are right now. Take time for your mental and educational wellbeing by focusing on your current needs, not just your future ones. Whether you take a walk with a friend, read something unrelated to school or plan your daily tasks, try getting energy from today — not just the future.
- ☐ **Break down your long-term goals into short-term ones.** Write out your long-term objectives, and then think about what steps you need to take to achieve them. You can increase your short-term motivation by dividing your future goals into more detailed ones. Finished that internship, huge project or club involvement? Check it off your list, and you're already closer.
- ☐ **Use your future-oriented mindset to motivate others.** Some people are fixed on the past or present, so it's hard to see what's next. Try volunteering as a peer advisor or mentoring a younger student. You excel at motivating others to visualize and explore their goals for the future. This can also be a great thing to add to your résumé or mention in a job interview.
- ☐ **Think about the career you want.** Even if you don't know exactly what you want to do, visualizing a specific job can help you learn early on if that's something you really want. Picture an interesting career; now, imagine your days doing that. Change up your routine to match what that career might involve. This process could help you decide what future job is right for you.

Reflect to Plan for Action

What's your top goal? What are you doing today to achieve it?

How can you help others see their potential and get excited about the future?



STRATEGIC THINKING

2. Analytical

You search for reasons and causes. You have the ability to think about all of the factors that might affect a situation.

How This Theme Contributes to Your Success

You ask great questions. You may spend time during your teacher's office hours asking in-depth questions or in class encouraging your teacher or classmates to go deeper in their thinking. You know that to truly learn, questions must come before thinking. Others often worry about asking too many questions, but you don't shy away.

The academic work you submit is well-researched and accurate. You enjoy classwork that has definitive answers. Because of your need to have everything proven, you also want to establish the truth. For assignments, papers, discussions and projects, you research to gather all the facts and information because having the supporting data compels you to do so.

Whether it's an assignment, a class discussion or a problem, because you ask profound questions, others notice new things. You aren't satisfied with superficial relationships — whether it's a teacher or classmate. You ask questions that lead others to self-discovery. Others often say to you, "I never thought of asking that" or "I hadn't considered that before."

How This Theme Could Get in the Way of Your Success

- Your questions may come across as if you disbelieve the speaker or topic. Teachers and classmates might feel like you are interrogating them because of the volume of questions you ask. They may wonder if you are genuinely curious and motivated by the truth or asking questions because you doubt them. Consider your motives, and ask questions to help you develop as a student.
- You may slow yourself or others down as you strive to have all the facts. In group settings, you might get others off schedule, jeopardizing the deadline or monopolizing group time to answer your own questions. On your own, you struggle to know when to stop researching and when to act, which can get overwhelming as your classwork piles up.
- Classes or topics that exclude possibilities may be difficult for you. While you see the value in these classes, it might be hard to understand more abstract work like poetry or literature. There will be required classes you don't want to take, and when certain topics don't include data or have definite outcomes, you may struggle to find the energy to complete the work.

ACTION ITEMS

How to Apply Analytical as a Student

This theme gives you an edge — here's how you can use it.

- ☐ **Reflect on the questions you ask in the classroom.** Your inquisitive, deep-thinking nature brings so much value to the process of learning. Intentionally consider what kinds of questions you ask and what kinds you should ask more of. Consider where others, including your teacher, need you to ask more profound questions.
- ☐ **Make your research process more efficient.** You love the research part of schoolwork. Consider ways to do your in-depth research faster and to acknowledge when you have enough. Write down your ideal research and data collection process, and then look at where you could cut time gathering data while keeping the most important parts. Knowing why and how you do things will help you stay focused.
- ☐ **Find a thinking partner to help you navigate your future.** Whether it's a guidance counselor, academic advisor, mentor or friend, consider sharing the way you think with someone else. As you navigate the choices for your future that are quickly approaching, you may need a partner who will help motivate you to move from thinking to action.
- ☐ **Sign up for a class or activity that will challenge you.** You have classwork that you're very comfortable with. Now enroll in or sign up for something that will force you to do new research, ask different questions or make you think creatively. This will boost your analytical skills, putting you in a better position for your future.

Reflect to Plan for Action

What classes do you like and dislike the most? Do you notice any themes?

How do you approach complex research, and why?



STRATEGIC THINKING

3. Learner

You have a great desire to learn and want to continuously improve. The process of learning, rather than the outcome, excites you.

How This Theme Contributes to Your Success

You love the process of learning. The daily routines that lead to learning will never get old for you — whether inside or outside the classroom. You can probably share exactly what you love about learning, whether it's a fresh notebook, a new class, complex ideas or something else. You are always looking for something new to learn.

Your enthusiasm for learning makes a better educational environment for others. You don't begrudgingly enter a classroom or complain about a new subject. You face each day with renewed energy as you wonder what further information you will learn. Your teachers will admire your attitude and appreciate teaching students like you.

Understanding how to acquire information comes naturally to you. You know exactly how you do and don't like to learn and can help others do the same. People may say you're a skilled teacher, as you can effectively connect the learning to the person. You know how to help others reach learning outcomes, and your academic career is filled with people who admire your knowledge.

How This Theme Could Get in the Way of Your Success

- You might get frustrated with boring classwork or teachers. Because you seek the profound awareness that often comes from the learning process, you may feel discontent when you're either not learning or when those around you don't care to seek it. During your academic career, you'll meet classmates and even teachers tired of learning; this will be hard for you.
- You could truly learn different subjects or skills forever, but this could become a problem when you choose classes or extracurricular activities that take up your time but don't help you achieve your long-term goals. In fact, learning for the sake of learning alone could distract you from spending more time on the subjects or extracurricular activities that you actually need to.
- It might frustrate you if the focus in a class is more on the learning goals than the process. You have your own strategy for attaining knowledge, and when you can't learn in the way that best fits you, you worry you won't get the education you need — for example, cramming for a test when you prefer days to study or having tight group project deadlines when you prefer weeks.

ACTION ITEMS

How to Apply Learner as a Student

This theme gives you an edge — here's how you can use it.

- ☐ **Pick a new subject or activity that excites you.** Filling your time with necessary learning will help you reach your goals — but take a class, participate in an extracurricular activity or learn a new skill for fun. This will help sustain your excitement for learning while also helping you increase your knowledge.
- ☐ **Find an innovative way to apply your love of learning.** Each day, learn something unique about a friend, roommate, coworker, teacher, coach or someone else. Or, instead of discovering a new thing, find out how to do something you already do just a little bit better. Finding ways to learn every day, even in small ways, will help fill you with purpose.
- ☐ **Formally or informally tutor someone.** Whether it's a job that allows you to instruct people in multiple subjects or just someone in your class who needs extra support, try helping others understand how they learn best. Plus, you might appreciate the information even more as you teach, and helping someone else enjoy the learning process will make you happy.
- ☐ **Prioritize your learning goals and expectations.** You love the process of gathering knowledge, so organizing your learning objectives will help you focus on what's due first, what will be the most challenging and what will take you the longest. Now, begin to work on those tasks in the order that helps you make the best use of your energy and time.

Reflect to Plan for Action

Where can you focus your learning right now? How would that help you meet your goals?

Describe your learning process. What can you do to make it more efficient?



RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

4. Connectedness

You have faith in the links among all things. You believe there are few coincidences and that almost every event has meaning.

How This Theme Contributes to Your Success

One of your greatest contributions to group work or classroom learning is helping other students understand how everything is intertwined. You believe there's a reason for everything and a link between all things. This means you naturally see a deeper meaning connected to conversations, learning topics and assignments.

You value relationships and are interested in getting to know everyone. This is not simply for building new relationships; instead, it's a natural reaction to your belief that each person comes into your life for a reason. From teachers to other students, you know you've met someone for a reason and believe you'll see that reason someday.

While others might see learning as a chore or roadblock, you see the inherent value in the outcomes of learning. Even if you don't like the subject, you view the classroom as a set of opportunities and challenges — a path to something greater and more purposeful. You believe that every experience is meant to teach you something.

How This Theme Could Get in the Way of Your Success

- If you can't immediately see the connection between a class, partnership or assignment and the future, it might be hard for you to stay motivated. You may find it eventually, but it could be challenging to focus in the meantime. However, you must remember that certain classes and tasks won't always present a clear connection.
- Your "everything happens for a reason" mentality can come across as downplaying the situation to others. Whether it's a classmate's failed exam, a missed deadline for choosing classes or something else, your philosophical approach could frustrate others. You see the interconnections between upsetting situations and better outcomes, but not everyone wants to hear about them.
- Unexpected or substantial changes can be quite upsetting to you. When something significant changes or goes wrong, you immediately see how it could affect everything else. In group projects, you may get frustrated with those who make last-minute changes without considering how those modifications will affect every other outcome.

ACTION ITEMS

How to Apply Connectedness as a Student

This theme gives you an edge — here's how you can use it.

- ☐ **Join a club or extracurricular activity where high-level debate is welcome.** Philosophical conversations and meaningful arguments energize you. Because you enjoy both the relational part and the challenge of these conversations, you should look for a class or organization that allows this type of exchange.
- ☐ **Help the group see a more meaningful reason to complete their work.** You understand how individual contributors affect the outcome, so communicate how you see their contributions helping the team or class. You can help build cohesion by showing others how they play a part in achieving the group's goal.
- ☐ **Focus on the details.** You are good with broader ideas and concepts. Use that talent to focus on areas you might overlook. Don't choose classes just because they connect to your future; concentrate on finding the most interesting details. Take a class because of the new ways you'll be able to learn and for the projects you'll get to complete.
- ☐ **Reflect on past patterns of success to replicate them.** Think about the past so that you can consider the future. Because everything feels interconnected to you, you can look at both obvious successes and failures to see how they influenced your life today. Think, "Because this happened to me" Returning to these moments will energize you.

Reflect to Plan for Action

What have you attempted to achieve that made you a stronger person today?

How do you see your classes and social involvement positively influencing your future?



STRATEGIC THINKING

5. Strategic

You create alternative ways to proceed. Faced with any given scenario, you can quickly spot the relevant patterns and issues.

How This Theme Contributes to Your Success

You're great at thinking about all the different ways to approach a goal. Whether working with other classmates or independently, you want projects to be as efficient as possible. You don't start working on something until you have a plan. This helps ensure that you don't waste time at the end because you've considered all possible options at the beginning.

You feel comfortable taking calculated risks because you have multiple strategies if something goes wrong. Whether it's a class that's no longer available, a rejected internship application or something else, you have a backup. In fact, you may generally go for the riskiest option first because you know you can fall back on your secondary plan.

Others know they can come to you with complicated or confusing problems because you will help them solve them. You don't even need all the details to begin helping create a better plan. Whether it's a poorly planned class schedule or a group project process that's not working, you are happy to help others see the different paths to success — even in challenging situations.

How This Theme Could Get in the Way of Your Success

- People might be confused by or not understand your thinking because you see so many possible options for every situation. As you work in academic or extracurricular activity groups, you may make choices without consulting others first. Deciding to move forward with a plan without your group members' consent can undermine relationships.
- You may have trouble committing to one plan. In fact, you might also waste time trying to anticipate every possible disruption, change or unknown variable. Your time is valuable and often scarce. As you consider the best possible strategy for approaching a project or assignment or planning your next semester, you may be paralyzed by too many options.
- Classes that don't challenge you strategically can be boring. You may also notice that you quickly get frustrated with others' slow pace. You don't necessarily want a fast-paced working environment as much as you enjoy the mental stimulation of complex plans or people who can keep up with your vision. You see five paths forward before some classmates even see one.

ACTION ITEMS

How to Apply Strategic as a Student

This theme gives you an edge — here's how you can use it.

- ☐ **Write down a decision you need to make, and then list all the options.** Whether it's choosing an area of study, an internship, a project or an essay topic, write it down. Then list all the possible options you have. Now that you see it in front of you, consider what's missing and if you need to do more research or are ready to decide. Doing this will reduce the time it takes you to decide.
- ☐ **Find a trusted partner to think with.** Whether it's a teacher, mentor, career coach or friend, ask someone to externally process strategies with you and help you see the best path forward. When making important decisions such as choosing a career or committing to something like a scholarship or school, it's helpful to have someone who can support your choices.
- ☐ **Take classes that require real-world strategizing.** Challenge yourself mentally in the classroom by choosing classwork or even extracurricular activities that allow you to work with organizations, teams or people who need strategies for solving their problems. Help lead assignments and group presentations for those classes or activities.
- ☐ **Plan your schedule and routine for maximum productivity.** You might not have control over as much as you'd like as a student, but you can still strategize your schedule to be efficient and energizing. Think about class start times, class locations, types of classes, balanced extracurricular activities and more when planning your perfect, strategic routine.

Reflect to Plan for Action

What patterns or details do you seem to notice before anyone else?

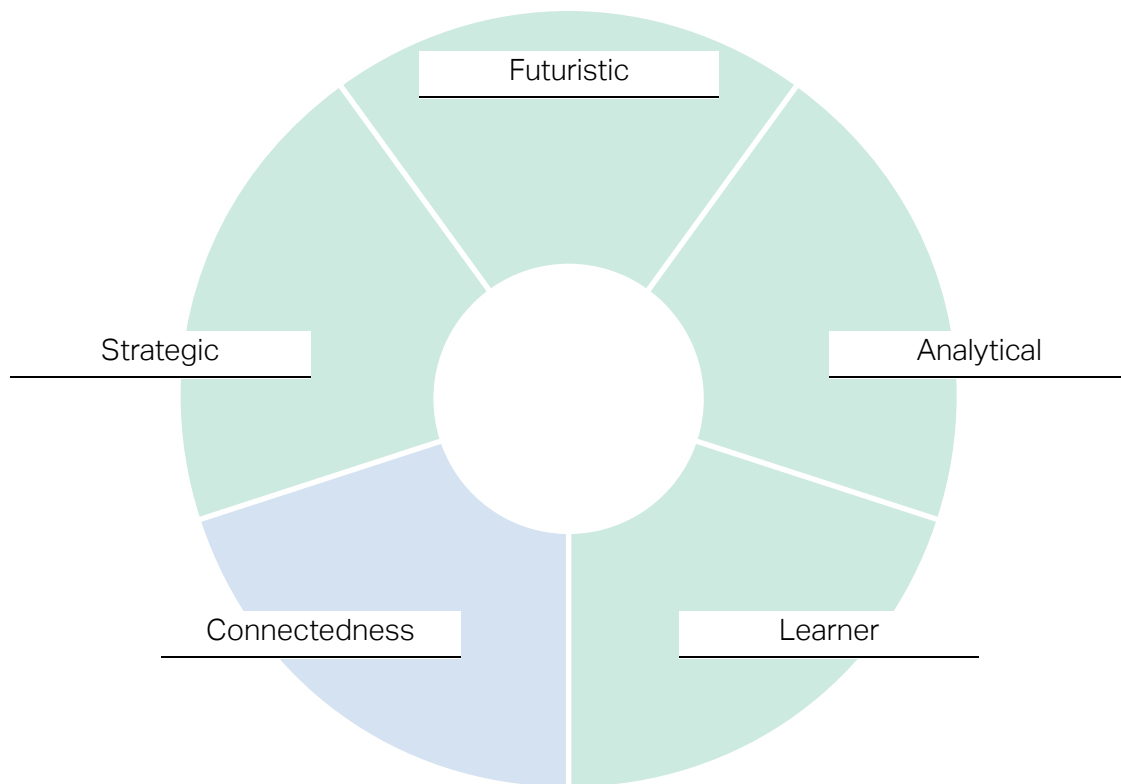
How can you make faster and more effective decisions?

Accomplish Your Goals

There's no "one right way" to succeed as a student. You'll get the best results by building on who you already are. But talents don't turn into strengths right away; you must continually aim them at your goals and the outcomes you desire most.

With a commitment to using your strengths, this report becomes the first step you take on the road to success selling.

Write your most meaningful goal in the center of the circle. Next, think about the themes you can use to achieve this goal to help you answer the questions below.



How will you use your strengths to reach this goal?

How will you know you have been successful?