1. **Describe what you learned about yourself based on your self-assessment.**

My CliftonStrengths self-assessment results showed that my top five themes are futuristic, analytical, learner, connectedness, and strategic. Reading through each theme and the information provided in the report I can clearly see how each theme fits in my daily life, thoughts, and actions.

The majority of the themes center on different aspects of preparing for the future and my desires and goals in life. I regularly evaluate where I am, where I want to be in the future, and create plans to move towards those goals. The futuristic posits that this can get in the way of my success by making it a hard time to stay in the present. It also says that people might have a hard time understanding what I am trying to say.

At one point in my life I was licensed to teach engineering and technology at the middle school and high school levels. I have always held the belief that there is no bad question. The more questions, the more information becomes available, leading to faster and better results. This background has developed me into an analytical person who searches for knowledge, making me also a passionate learner. I am constantly learning something new, for example I have recently been learning about 3D printing and the process to create my own items using a printer, object files, and slicer software.

The engineering background has led me to explore the connectedness between things and strive to understand how things work individually and together. Everyday is an opportunity to learn something new. It might not be useful in the moment, but one never knows when that sliver of knowledge could be useful. One thing I liked about engineering, and have come to like it in computer science and programming, is that there is no one end all and be all solution to each problem we face in this world. Rather, there are many opportunities and paths to take when solving a problem, making the strategic theme completely understandable. Knowing more about these five themes has provided me with an opportunity to self reflect and determine areas that I need to improve and hone in on and refine in order to make my way down the path I would like to travel to my desired career.

1. **Create one SMART goal for developing influential leadership skills.**

**Goal:** I want to improve my interpersonal skills to communicate effectively what my goals are for completing my degree program on time and effectively. I will attain this by communicating with 3 instructors before completing my degree in two months.

**S** - Improve my interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate accurately and succinctly what my goals are for completing my degree program.

**M** - I will create meetings with 3 instructors of my courses to better understand the course requirements for each course and work to create a plan to complete each course in a timely manner in order to realize my education goals.

**A** - I will set aside 30 minutes each day leading up to the meetings to outline my goals for the course as well as questions for the instructor that will help me achieve those goals.

**R** - Being able to communicate effectively will allow a path to finishing each course to be identified quickly and efficiently allowing my goals to be completed in a timely manner.

**T** - Complete my degree and graduate in two months.

**B2. How does my SMART goal support the development of leadership skills?**

Having good interpersonal skills is a core skill to be an effective leader. Being able to communicate effectively with team members for a project will allow the cooperation to be more effective and the completion of the project to occur in a timely manner. With these skills I will be able to work better with future team members when working on a project.

**B3. How will the strengths identified in your self-assessment help you to achieve you SMART goal?**

Each of my strengths will help my objective in this goal. I am a learner, and love to learn more and develop skills with the knowledge I acquire. This provides an excellent opportunity to learn and implement new knowledge. I am very analytical so will analyze each interaction with instructors to determine areas that need improvement when conversing with an instructor. My futuristic strength has me looking at the future, in this case graduating in two months, and creating a plan to fulfill that goal. Connectedness provides me with the ability to see how these different interactions work together to allow me to graduate within the next two months. Being strategic, I am planning ahead to make sure that my skills improve in communication to allow graduation according to my plan.