**Lessons about my Leadership Strengths**

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At first, I thought about what and how I wanted to answer these survey questions. The first thought was to click with my gut and see if that felt right. The instructions also alluded to going with a gut instinct. They stated that if I delayed my response, it would be skipped. I opted, instead, to think about a scenario where the question related to an experience and assessed based on that. As I finished the test, I felt unsure how the results would come out, but I found it incredibly accurate, to my surprise.

The first strength it lists is Self-Assurance, and I saw this one coming. I have also been in touch with my ability to perform a task; this also dove into the tasks that were not in my skill set. I seem always to find a way to push through obstacles to complete my goal. I believe this self-assurance roots from my military training and the need for a soldier to take a task, even without the perfect scenario laid out, and accomplish that task. I have always relied on this ability and skills to get me through complex parts of my life.

As I read down the list, and the descriptors, the words "You are impatient for action" really glared into my soul. I have been an EMT for the better part of 20 years. As a volunteer chief, every team member says that I grow impatient for action. I believe that EMS has continually molded my neuropathways to be moving towards a goal and not dwell on the little things. This action can get me into trouble sometimes, but in EMS, we use the metaphor "we are not hanging cabinets here." This is also why I believe that I can get a lot done in less time than others. Also, I think this relates to my ability to learn new technologies at work, where I can make something, break it, learn from it, and move on to the next thing.

Communication, third on this list, says I like to speak in public. Imposter syndrome comes into play because when I have to talk in front of people, I tend to get a little nervous. But I have somewhat of a silver tongue, and I have been known to ramble on about subjects where I feel like I have a great breadth of knowledge. Over the past few years, I have made a concise effort to improve my writing abilities. Email, code documentation, user guides, or even the occasional blog post are part of my leadership style that I feel I always need the most improvement. As I may be hard on myself, I feel like I have a good way of relating complex things more straightforwardly to understand analogies.

For context, I am a full-time employee for a start-up, a full-time WGU student, a part-time volunteer EMS Chief; I work out, have a dog, and like to mountain bike and build things. The Arranger asks a question of "How can you keep so many things in your head at once?" and the cheat is that I have many systems that help me remember and plan. I have a few calendars, to-do lists, Siri alarms, and routines that allow me to maximize my time while also allowing me to get enough sleep and relaxation time. I am absolutely a productivity fanatic. As an EMT, we can get called at any point during the day or night, and my boss allows me to up and go on calls because he knows that I am just as productive on my worst day. For me, organizational skills are something that helps me to be hyper-organized yet flexible to get my tasks and projects moving forward. There are very few times where something will fall through the cracks, but it does happen.

Finally, Futuristic! I often see the best as a task. I would like to see have the fruits of a project will help shape the future of a project, company, or person. As I run a first aid squad and build software for a salary, I am always looking at ways to improve the product we make or the service we provide; I am always looking to improve the way we do these tasks. I am not an "if it is not broke, do not fix it" kind of person. If there is a better way to do something, then I would like to explore it. I also want to explore other people's ideas because you can always learn something from failure and gain a better situation if it succeeded.

As I reread this assessment and this paper I wrote, I can now lean into these strengths to become a better leader. I am always looking introspectively at myself so that I am better the next day. I also feel a sense of relief as there is a name for why I work and lead the way I do.

B.

**1. Identify SMART Goal:**

*Over the next eight weeks, I will write eight blog posts relating to technology and communication.*

* **Specific:** Writing blog posts about communication and technology
* **Measurable:** Success will be tracked by having a total of eight posts by the end of eight weeks.
* **Achievable:** Writing one post per week should allow me to complete my time allotment.
* **Relevant:** as I want to become a better technical writer, this will help with the growth of that skill.
* **Time-based:** Having a two-month deadline allows me to plan and stay on track.

**2. Explain how SMART Goal supports the development of leadership skills.**

My assessment stated that I was a communicator. While I feel that is accurate, I also feel like I constantly need to improve. As an arranger, I will lay out the topics I would like to research and write about, and the activator strength will push me to improve this area. As another strength is being self-assured, I will complete this goal and hopefully learn a few things along the way. The best way to learn something for me is to continue to do it.

**3. Explain how the strengths identified in your self-assessment will help you achieve your SMART goal.**

As a Futurist, Arranger, and Activator, I will look at the tasks involved, create a plan, be flexible, and dive into this project. Exercising the Communication strength in this will only improve as the project moves forward. A futurist like myself will see this to improve a process and continue to shape a mere vision over the horizon.

C.

The only references I have are of the Gallup Clifton Strengths Assessment attached.