

Applying Command Talents in Academics

These insights and action ideas can help you apply Command talents to achieve in various aspects of your academic life.

General Academic Life

- Ask probing and pointed questions during discussions and lectures by professors. Realize that your questioning mind accelerates your learning.
- Take charge of your college education. Play the lead role in shaping your degree or certification plan. Refuse to leave these decisions to an advisor.
- Challenge facts presented in textbooks, the media, and class presentations. Critique your instructors and classmates. Search for the truth.
- When a particularly interesting class discussion is ended due to time constraints, express to your professor your wish that he or she would continue the discussion in an office visit.

Study Techniques

- Join study groups known for debating ideas, theories, and problems.
- Use your Command talents to clarify rather than intimidate. Understand that some clear-thinking individuals may become flustered under pressure.
- Give your instructors feedback about what you most enjoy and benefit from in their classes.
- Develop hypotheses and thesis statements that you must defend in writing or oral presentations. Recognize that you are more engaged when you must build a case to support your ideas.
- Play devil's advocate -- that is, argue the opposing view -- for fun and benefit when the opportunity arises. Warn people that you like to draw others into debates.

Relationships

- Assume the leadership role in groups, especially when you have knowledge, skills, expertise, and experience others lack.
- Notice which classmates rely on you to ask the professor questions. Provide this service for those who are intimidated by the instructor's knowledge or demeanor.
- Study your mannerisms, vocal tone, and content of your messages when talking with authority figures. Pinpoint how you present yourself as a person worthy of their time and undivided attention.
- Explore ways that you can serve others by giving orders and making demands. Identify individuals who are comfortable and content following your lead.

Class Selection

- Select classes that require you to plan your own curriculum. Acknowledge your desire to make your own academic decisions.
- Take classes in which you are expected to voice your opinions, argue, draw conclusions, take sides, and make recommendations.
- Choose classes taught by instructors who take a position and demand that students challenge it.
- Enroll in courses with professors who are secure enough to welcome your combative learning style.

Extracurricular Activities

- Gravitate to organizations in which you can envision yourself being a key decision maker.
- Realize that you threaten some people with your forceful style.
- Opt to participate in activities where you must persuade people to embrace your ideas, plans, solutions, or philosophies.
- Join groups in which you are expected to sell products and services, solicit donations, and raise money.

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