

Applying Communication Talents in Academics

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

General Academic Life

- Participate in class discussions. Enhance your own and others' comprehension by talking through the key points.
- Respond to questions with thought-provoking answers.
- Illustrate scholarly concepts with real-life examples. Help others learn in the process.
- Capture your audience's interest by telling stories to amplify an idea, concept, theory, scientific law, philosophical point, ethical quandary, or historic event.

Study Techniques

- Converse about the subject matter until you fully understand it.
- Tell others about your solutions, theories, concepts, and ideas before presenting them in class. Acknowledge that this is how you refine your thinking.
- Notice how your classmates rely on you to engage the professor in dialogue. Realize that you are quite comfortable doing this.
- Entertain your study group with anecdotes that make history, mathematics, science, languages, or the arts come alive in their minds.

Relationships

- Take the pressure off quiet, timid individuals by doing most of the talking.
- Cheer up people with accounts of your own and others' humorous escapades.
- Plan at least four meetings each term with professors who are good listeners. Take advantage of the fact that they expect you to do most of the talking.
- Express your philosophical views, goals, pet peeves, and opinions so others can learn about you as a person.

Class Selection

- Take classes from professors who encourage students to interrupt lectures to share stories or offer examples that amplify a concept.
- Select classes in which you will be graded for participation in class discussions.
- Register for courses that require you to make presentations.
- Enroll in theatre arts, speech, and communications classes.

Extracurricular Activities

- Affiliate with a speakers' bureau in which the members address campus and community groups.
- Try out for the speech team. Concentrate on dramatic interpretation to hone your storytelling skills.
- Audition for plays even if you are not a theatre major.
- Campaign for elected office, or be a candidate's spokesperson.

Copyright © 2010 Gallup, Inc. All rights reserved.



StrengthsQuestTM