



Maximize Your Career Through Personal Strengths
MN Chapter – Assoc. of Accounting Administrators

September 28, 2011

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You are a Salesperson

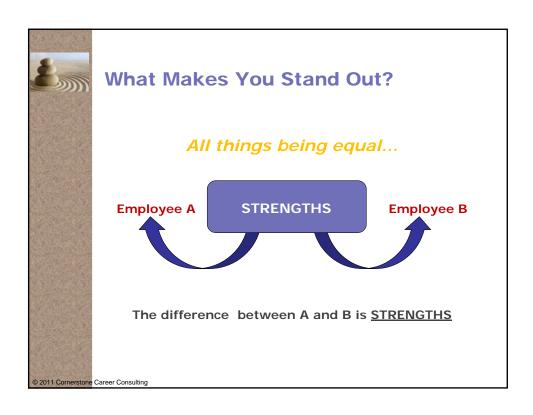
(whether you like it or not ©)

- In your career, you are in sales...and YOU are the product
- You're in charge of proactively managing your career long-term
- To sell your value to your employer you have to...

Know Your Product & Believe in it!

How will you sell yourself?

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StrengthsFinder - FAQ's

- 40 years of research
- ♦ 5 million+ interviews 63+ countries
- :20 first response/instinct
- 34 most common
- 5 pre-dominant function predominantly from 2
- Rank vs. Function
- ❖ 98.9% accuracy − 1st time
- ❖ 89.9% accuracy − 2nd time
- 1:278,000 possibility of anyone sharing your top 5 in any order
- 1:33.5 mill. possibility of anyone having top 5 in the same order
- Only 179 people out of 6 billion with same 5 in same order!
- 20% people that are working from their strengths
- 80% not engaged, bringing their best every day

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The facts are...

Most Americans don't know what their strengths are. And only 41% of all Americans focus on their strengths. Why is that?

- We reflect on our strengths by talking about external things (experiences/awards) and not what we possess that gives us the <u>ability</u> to achieve them
- We deal with a constant fear of our weaknesses, of failure, of one's true self; we look at them as "areas of opportunity" and things we must improve
- We focus the majority of our time on developing strategies to fix our weaknesses vs. becoming consciously competent by building on our strengths and managing around our weaknesses

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Now, Discover Your Strengths, The Free Press, 2001



Why Strengths Matter...

Gallup found that companies whose employees play to their strengths most of the time are:

- 50% more likely to have lower employee turnover
- 38% more likely to work on high-productivity teams
- 44% more likely to earn higher customer satisfaction scores

AND...

- "Strength-aware" individuals are more likely to perform consistently, happily & successfully
- Maximizing strengths becomes a positive self-perpetuating circle as opposed to the downward spiral of weakness fixing
- Excellent workplaces focus on the "strengths -mix" of the whole team and deploy individuals to get optimal impact and outcomes

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What is a Strength?

Strengths are the things you do that make you feel energized and alive when you do them

- They are what you like to do
- They're easy & effortless
- They're so natural you think "doesn't everyone do that?
- Your innate abilities you've had them since you were born!
- They're part of your "DNA"

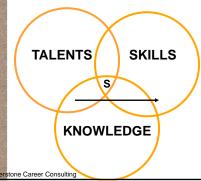
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What Are Strengths - Gallup

- Something we do consistently, regularly, without really thinking
- Consistent, near-perfect performance in an activity
- Our "filter" of how we see the world; how we're hard-wired
- Using them gives us energy versus draining us of it



Strengths are developed based on how well you capitalize on your strongest connections

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What's the Difference?

Talents = "diamonds in the rough"

Strengths = polished stones

- ❖ Talents are innate It's HOW you do it
- Skills & knowledge are acquired through learning and practice – it's APPLICATION

Talents + Skills + Knowledge = Strengths

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An Example - Dentist

Talent

Empathy (sense the feelings of others)

Skills

- Pulling teeth
- · Novocain injections

Knowledge

- Nerves, teeth, etc.
- Dental instruments

STRENGTH

"Pulling a tooth that seems painless to the patient!"

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Examples of Talents

- Behavior patterns that make you effective.
- Thought patterns that make you efficient.
- Beliefs that empower you to succeed.
- Attitudes that sustain your efforts toward achievement and excellence.
- Motivations that propel you to take action and maintain the energy needed to achieve.

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Your Top 5 Strengths

- What are your Top 5 Strengths?
- Which one showed up that wasn't a surprise?
- Which one was "surprising" or made you curious?
- Which of your Strengths are you tapping into the most in your current role?

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Four Theme Domains

Executing: Working Harder Strategic Thinking: Working Smarter Achiever Activator Analytical Adaptability Arranger Belief Connectedness Discipline Context Focus Deliberative Restorative Consistency Self-Assurance Futuristic Significance Ideation Input Intellection Learner Strategic **Impacting:** Influencing People **Relating:** Assisting People Command Communication Competition Empathy Developer Harmony Maximizer Includer Individualization Positivity Woo Relator Responsibility © 'The Language of Strengths', The Gallup Organization, 2001 © 2011 Cornerstone Career Consulting



Theme Domains

Four theme domains:

- Executing ability to go "all out," endeavor, or aspire What pushes you toward results.
- Thinking ability to conceive, anticipate, or imagine How you analyze the world.
- Impacting ability to move or strongly influence others How you move others to action.
- Relating ability to connect, join, or associate with others.
 How you build connections with others.

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Practical Application

- Where did your 5 strengths land on the quadrant?
- What words come to mind when you think about what's most important in your role?
- What conclusions can you draw from this?

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Striving / Executing Domain

"Implementers"

- Organize and take charge
- Drive projects across the finish line outcome driven
- Manage, run, and improve core processes & systems
- Remove barriers to performance
- Manage the details and ensures results
- Want to know the goals, deadlines, and what's expected of them
- "no-nonsense" hate inefficiency
- Ask the tough questions no one else does

Challenges: can become enmeshed in too many details and get bogged down. They get caught up in the crisis de jour and entwined in details. Often assumes too much responsibility.

A team low in Implementers can miss deadlines & details

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Thinking/Strategic Domain

"Innovators"

- "Out of the box" solutions
- Recognize emerging needs & imagine solutions
- Masters of "possibility" thinking
- Like to synthesize ideas, develop theories, research information, and design innovative solutions
- Challenges the status quo and asks: "What about this idea? Have you thought about trying that?"
- Envisions a brighter future
- Encourages everyone to see possibilities and think differently
- Challenges: Need to slow down & help others understand how they came to a conclusion and what it will take to implement the idea.

A team low in innovators will see less options & solutions

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Impacting / Influencing Domain

"Influencers" - "visionary architects"

- Visionary change agents
- Champion & launch new ideas and ensure their success
- Excel at forging alliances inside and outside the organization
- Set up projects and change initiatives up for success
- Know what it takes to create lasting change big change
- Put systems and resources in place to achieve the vision
- Will sell the idea, assemble the resources & design the infrastructure to support the project
- Challenges: Can fail to secure buy-in from those affected by change; need to stay open to negative feedback & not take it personally

A team low on Influencers can lack a larger vision & purpose

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Relating / Assisting Domain

"Motivators"

- Motivate others and gain commitment
- Help people work collaboratively and build trust & teamwork
- ❖ The "glue" that makes projects and relationships work
- Highly intuitive to others needs & concerns
- Like to connect, communicate & inspire others to do their best
- Experts at listening, coaching, communicating & facilitating
- Listen & advise, resolve conflict
- Challenges: Can assume too much responsibility for the emotions of others & have a hard time saying "no"

A team without Motivators can lack enthusiasm & have low morale

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Conclusion

- What have you learned about yourself today?
- What might be immediate next steps for you?

"Success is not defined by position or pay scale but by this...

doing the most what you do

the best"

Max Lucado – Cure for the Common Life

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Go Put Your Strengths to Work!

Thank You for your time today!

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Gallup StrengthsFinder® Signature Themes

Four Theme Domains

What pushes you toward results

How you move others to action

Striving: Working Harder (Executing)

- Achiever
- Activator
- Adaptability
- Belief
- Discipline
- Focus
- Restorative
- ❖ Self-Assurance

Impacting: Influencing People

Significance

Command

Developer

Maximizer

PositivityWoo

Competition

Thinking: Working Smarter (Strategic)

- Analytical
- Arranger
- Connectedness
- Context
- Consistency
- Deliberative
- Futuristic
- Ideation
- ❖ Input
- Intellection
- Learner
- Strategic

Relating: Assisting People

- Communication
- Empathy
- Harmony
- ❖ Includer
- Individualization
- Relator
- Responsibility

How you analyze the world around you

How you build connections with others