Five Clues to Academic Talent

Reflect on your experiences in school up to this point in your life. Then answer the following questions.

To what kind of activities in school are you naturally drawn?

What kind of activities in school do you seem to pick up quickly?

When in school, did the “steps” just come to you automatically?

When in school, have you had moments of subconscious excellence when you thought, “How did I do that?”

What activities in school did you finish and then ask, “When can I do that again?”
Facilitation Notes: Activity 3.3: Five Clues to Academic Talent

Learning Outcome:

- Evaluate their general academic goals in light of their talents and strengths, as well as other personal qualities and external considerations.

Approximately 20 minutes

Activity Description:

When students develop a learning or developmental strategy, unearthing their own talents and strengths and those of others is one of the most valuable discoveries. Their Signature Themes provide tremendous clues to their greatest talents and is an excellent foundation to build on as they choose their academic direction.

But there are other clues students should use as well. Everyday life is filled with many other revealing clues. Students should consider their yearnings, instances of rapid learning, satisfaction, ease and timelessness, and glimpses of excellence.

In this activity, students are asked to consider five questions designed to unearth revealing clues.

Ask your students to read each of the questions and then carefully consider and write their responses to each.

Alternatively, you can ask students to use the journaling function of the StrengthsQuest Web site to complete this activity. Click Journal from the homepage, and follow the directions to add, sort, print, or make an entry.