**Applying Command Talents in Academics**

*These insights and action ideas can help you apply Command talent 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 debate.

**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.