

Applying Ideation Talents in Academics

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

General Academic Life

- Take on leadership positions in projects that will allow you to share several ideas and use your creativity.
- Take on an independent research project in which you can generate and explore numerous ideas.
- Work with a professor in developing a research project, and contribute your creative abilities. You probably will have many ideas to offer.
- Your mind may wander. You can use this to your advantage by letting your thoughts flow freely in class, as long as you think about the subject you are studying.

Study Techniques

- As you read an idea, use it as a stimulus for your own further thought and creativity.
- As you study, think of different concepts, and invent new ways to present the materials in writing or in graphics. This will invigorate your mind as well as the minds of others.
- Allow yourself ample time for thinking. If you rush through a reading assignment, you are less likely to be engaged with it.
- Brainstorm with your friends about topics you are studying. Let your mind "go wild," knowing that you can sort through the ideas later.

Relationships

- Surround yourself with friends who are responsive to listening as well as probing you about your ideas.
- Choose a mentor who has the courage to support you in your ideas and who will also challenge you to explore them even further.
- You love to generate ideas. Find a partner who would enjoy helping implement your ideas.

Class Selection

- Choose classes that involve creative projects rather than simple exams and term papers.
- Some classes might not seem to encourage creative expression because of their subject matter. Recognize that you can use your Ideation talents to create new and stimulating ways to learn.
- Select classes taught by professors who enjoy diversity of ideas.

Extracurricular Activities

- Join a group that values and stimulates creative ideas.
- Involve yourself in a project that allows you to use your creative talents, such as general writing, news magazines, newspapers, journals, graphics, or painting.
- Help revive a struggling group. You will have several ideas to restore life into the group. Also consider starting a totally new group and generating several ideas about projects in which it might become engaged.

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