**Competition**

People who are especially talented in the Competition theme measure their progress against the performance of others. They strive to win first place and revel in contests.

I am (being) → aware of my competitors  
I will (doing) → strive to win  
I bring (contribution) → an aspiration to be the best  
I need (requirement) → peers for comparison and motivation  
I love (value) → a chance to go against the best  
I hate (value) → coming in second  

Metaphor/Image → no consolation prizes – the gold medal is the only medal  
Barrier Label → sore loser

### Theme Contrast

**Competition**: When I watch others perform, I get better  
**Significance**: When others watch me perform, I get better  
**Competition**: The scoreboard measures my progress and validates victory  
**Analytical**: Data quantifies experience and validates theories

### General Academic Life Tips

- Regard grades as your scorecard. Invest more effort in classes where the results of tests, papers, and projects are posted for all to see.
- Monitor your grade-point average by the week, month, or academic term. Compare your class ranking to that of your closest rivals. Realize that striving for the highest GPA leads you to excel.
- Plan your academic career with Graduation Planner, and monitor your progress with the Academic Progress Audit System (APAS).
- Clarify how professors weight class participation, final exams, presentations, laboratory experiments, and research projects. Continuously monitor your grades and class standing.
- Study your opponents – that is, your classmates. Identify each one’s strengths. Evaluate their study strategies. Continually compare your results to theirs.

### Extracurricular Activities

- Try out for the debate or speech team. Audition for a play, first chair in a section of the orchestra, or a featured dancing role.
- Play competitive sports. Risk being a walk-on to win a spot on an athletic team.
- Check your department’s bulletin boards for opportunities to enter contests. Gravitate to contests sponsored by student and professional organizations in your major area of study.
- Run for a leadership position in the Minnesota Student Association (MSA). Campaign to win.

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