Responsibility

People who are especially talented in the Responsibility theme take psychological ownership of what they say they will do. They are committed to stable values such as honesty and loyalty.

I am (being) → someone others often trust to get things done
I will (doing) → keep promises and follow through on commitments
I bring (contribution) → dependability and loyalty
I need (requirement) → freedom to take ownership
I love (value) → the respect of others
I hate (value) → disappointing others and being disappointed by others
Metaphor/Image → serious owner – not disinterested renter
Barrier Label → can’t say no or let go

Career Development Tips

- Make an appointment with your college’s Career Services to talk about how to begin the career planning process. The sense of psychological ownership this step creates will engage you in the process and energize you to follow through.
- Interview people who are currently in jobs that interest you. Shadow them to see what they really do day in and day out. Conduct an Informational Interview to learn even more about their career.
- You often take the initiative, and you always follow through, so you do not need a lot of supervision. Select work in which you can be given more and more responsibility as you progressively achieve.
- Supervise others and model responsibility to others by applying to be a Community Advisor (CA) in one of the residence halls.
- Building trusting relationships with others is important to you, so choose environments in which you surround yourself with dependable, trustworthy people. When selecting a team to join, be sure the other members are pulling their weight.
- Managing others could be a frustrating experience for you, as their standards of responsibility might not match your own.
- You will be most productive in environments where you can fully follow through on the commitments you make to others.
- Choose a work environment that focuses on outcomes rather than processes. Talk to law clerks, librarians, and executive assistants to see what they find rewarding about their work.

Theme Contrast

Responsibility: If you can’t do it right, don’t do it
Activator: Doing something is always better than not doing anything
Responsibility: I feel intense guilt when I fail to do something right
Significance: I feel intense regret when I miss an opportunity to succeed

Extracurricular Activities

- Wisely consider how much time you can devote to clubs and activities.
- Run for an office in clubs like the Minnesota Student Association (MSA) only if you have the capacity to fulfill it as you would like.
- Select organizations that stand for the same values you do. Find these organizations at the U of M’s Student Unions & Activities page.

General Academic Tips

- Prepare for the term by listing the dates of all tests, projects, and papers.
- Ask professors and successful students to show you what an “A” paper and an “A” essay look like.
- Go to a SMART Learning Commons location in one of the libraries to learn with another student and be as prepared as possible; or sign up to be a tutor and teach other students your skills as a responsible student.
- Think about what it would mean to be a truly responsible student. Work toward that standard in a progressive manner, taking one step at a time.
- Strive to always work ahead. Read ahead and work problems before the professor has presented them in class.

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