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

Career Development Tips

- Explore leadership opportunities on campus, particularly in organizations where you can stimulate others to excel and win. Think about joining one of the Governing Bodies on the U of M's campus.
- Go to your college’s Career Services and take several different career inventories, and then compare yourself to others who are successful in fields that interest you.
- Choose work environments that challenge you and in which your success can be quantified with scores, ratings, and rankings. Avoid situations lacking meaningful, objective measurement criteria, as you often desire a “yardstick” with which you can measure your progress and compare it to that of others.
- Decide whether you prefer to compete as an individual or as a team member. Select employment that matches your preference either for total or shared control over final results.
- Environments that reward your achievement and offer status or prestige are likely to bring out your best.
- Talk to sales reps, politicians, lawyers, athletes, and business leaders about what they enjoy most in their work in an Informational Interview.

Theme Contrast

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Significance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When I watch others perform, I get better</td>
<td>When others watch me perform, I get better</td>
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Competitive: 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.