People who are especially talented in the Context theme enjoy thinking about the past. They understand the present by researching its history.

Theme Contrast

Context: I naturally remember what has been
Futuristic: I naturally anticipate what should be

Context: I can proceed when I understand the history
Focus: I can proceed when the goal is clear

**Core Values**

- I am (being) → appreciative of my predecessors and prior events
- I will (doing) → remember important history
- I bring (contribution) → accurate memories and valuable memorabilia
- I need (requirement) → relevant background for discussions/decisions
- I love (value) → the retrospective
- I hate (value) → when the past is forgotten

Metaphor/Image → rear-view mirror is essential for safe driving
Barrier Label → stuck in the past

**Career Development Tips**

- Talk to your mentor and to those in jobs that interest you. Ask them to tell you about their job searches. Conduct an Informational Interview through your college’s Career Services.
- Read as much as you can about career planning so you’ll understand the process from beginning to end. That understanding of the total experience will give you the security to consider a variety of options.
- You recognize that past behavior is often the best predictor of future behavior. Spend some time thinking about your own past choices and how they might be connected to good possibilities for your future.
- Your Context talents are likely to flourish in environments that allow you to explore how things came to be the way they are. To explore this through research, apply for the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP).
- Collegial environments with strong traditions, rituals, and a sense of organizational history will often bring out your best efforts.
- Interview archaeologists, historians, museum curators, humanities professors, or antique appraisers about their talents and what they love about their work.

**General Academic Life Tips**

- Associate with individuals and groups that specialize in the study of specific events, personalities, and periods of history.
- Create a historical frame of reference for whatever you study. Research political, natural, military, and religious events of that period. Delve into the lives of contemporary leaders, scientists, artists, explorers, and philosophers.
- Supplement required reading for classes by locating other credible sources of information. Research your classes further at the U’s Library webpage. Don’t allow your professor’s syllabus to limit your thinking.
- Understand that you are attracted to institutions of learning with a rich history and long tradition. Get to know the history of the U of MN.
- Seek opportunities to study with reputable, recognized, and knowledgeable historians who are also master teachers.
- Attend lecture series in which leading figures of your time speak about their experiences in global leadership, diplomacy, military affairs, business, science, or the arts. Prepare questions to pose during the Q&A sessions or book signings.

**Extracurricular Activities**

- Join a genealogy society or club. Trace your own or someone else’s family tree.
- Serve as the historian of your fraternity, sorority, honor society, or campus organization. Explore groups you can join through Student Unions & Activities.
- Collect and archive memorabilia from events throughout the years. Volunteer to work with the campus historian to gain hands-on experience.
- Form a book club whose members read and then discuss autobiographies, biographies, history books, or even historical fiction.

---

Adapted from materials from Gallup, Inc. Clifton StrengthsFinder®, StrengthsFinder®, and each of the 34 Clifton StrengthsFinder theme names are trademarks of Gallup, Inc.