

# Teaching For Success Faculty Success Center

## *Success Insights*

### **DPB #2: Strengths**

DPB stands for Daily Performance Builder. These are questions designed to promote incremental development and mastery of any job. They are used by high-performance people who possess the passion and commitment to do their best and accomplish the most in any situation for which they have responsibility for the outcome.

DPB two activates with the question, "What are my special talents and skills, and how can they help me to improve my teaching?" If you teach, this question is for you. It's about matching your talents, experience, and abilities to the special context of classes. I'm thinking here of how you could better match your students' characteristics, learning preferences, capabilities, preparation and goals to your teaching strengths.

This is an important performance question because the more that work aligns with your unique skill set, the more likely it is that you will achieve your desired goals in less time and with less effort.

For example, I taught with a colleague who was terrific at telling instructional stories. At first, seeing his success, I felt that I should try to adopt his style. But with some considered thought and teaching experiments, I realized my strength was in designing engaging hands-on learning projects and producing effective learning support materials.

We used two different ways to teach. But both of us were equally effective because we employed our unique skills and experiences to achieve the same outcomes. Neither one of us would have been successful instructors if we had tried to adopt the other's methods.

It turned out that our highest value activities were different for each of us, but because these activities yielded good results, both of us confirmed through student evaluations and tested learning outcomes that teaching with our strengths and unique talents worked best. The point is this; when you know and use your natural strengths, you teach for success.

~John H, (Jack) Shrawder, Exec. Director,  
Teaching For Success, Faculty Success Center.