

The Dream of Teaching

I coached a new college graduate named Andrea, who was working as an administrative assistant at a non-profit, faith-based organization. When she showed me her Signature themes, I was excited. They included Communication, Developer, Individualization, and Empathy. I said, "Wow! Did you study teaching in college?" Andrea's eyes welled up with tears and she told me that she had studied Communications, but had always wanted to be a teacher and work with underprivileged children. She then asked how I knew about her dream of becoming a teacher. I told Andrea that no one told me, but that her Signature themes lent themselves to her being a very caring teacher who would be able to teach to the individual needs of each child. Andrea told me that she had taken her current job so that she could have time to pray about her career path before jumping into the corporate world. She had enjoyed studying Communications, but something was missing. I explained that she probably didn't feel like this job would engage her Developer theme.

At our next session, Andrea told me that she was considering applying to Teach for America, so she could teach while getting her education degree. A few months later, Andrea was accepted to Teach for America. She is currently teaching inner-city children in the South. Andrea loves teaching so much that she has even recruited other people for the Teach for America program. Andrea credits StrengthsFinders coaching for helping her make one of the most important decisions of her life. She is very happy with her decision.

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