



Purpose

The goal of the Clifton Youth StrengthsExplorer is “to identify areas where a young person’s greatest potential for building strengths exist” in academic, home, and organizational settings. Identifying strengths can promote development in these areas and improve understanding of self as well as parents’ and teachers’ understanding of their children. Due to low reliability for test-retest, the Clifton Youth StrengthsExplorer serves mostly as an excellent conversation starter as respondents likely receive different results each time it is administered, sometimes receiving results that might seem very accurate while others may not seem to reflect personality characteristics.

Intended Population

The Clifton Youth StrengthsExplorer is intended to identify strengths in youth 9 to 15 years of age. The StrengthsFinder 2.0 is a modified version of StrengthsExplorer for adults.

Test Development

After years of interviews, observations, and focus groups, the initial pilot versions of the Clifton Youth StrengthsExplorer consisted of 290 items, one with a three point scale responses, ranging from yes, sometimes, and no, and the other with four point scale responses, ranging from almost always to always, often, sometimes, and never to almost never. The second pilot version consisted of 154 items and 18 themes, utilizing respondents from geographically, ethnically, and socio-economically diverse school districts. Following various modifications, the final and current version of the Clifton Youth StrengthsExplorer consists of 78 items with four point scale responses. Respondents also have the option to select, “This question does not make sense to me.”

Reliability

The themes of the Clifton Youth StrengthsExplorer are internally consistent with alpha coefficients ranging from 0.72 (Dependability) to 0.87 (Caring). Additionally, The Clifton Youth StrengthsExplorer is stable with test-retest correlations of 0.60 or greater, excluding the Competing (0.44) and Discoverer (0.49) themes. Test-retest correlations also revealed that only 20% of respondents received the same combination of Top 3 themes from first administration appearing at retest. Further, only 6% of respondents received the same combination *and* order of Top 3 themes for first and second administrations.

Validity

Factor analyses suggest that the Clifton Youth StrengthsExplorer demonstrates construct validity. However, further investigation is required to assess convergent and discriminant validity.

Score Reports

Youth receive a report consisting of “Top 3” talent themes and descriptions ranked by proprietary formulas. Themes include Achieving, Caring, Competing, Confidence, Dependability, Discoverer, Future Thinker, Organizer, Presence, and Relating. If more than 30% of questions receive the response, “This question does not make sense to me,” respondents will receive a message suggesting a re-test with an adult present to help make sense of the questions.