

## **What makes you better than the other candidates?** **By Christy Eng**

“What makes you better than the other candidates?” This is a question I’ve heard time and time again throughout every interview I have. Why am I better than everyone else? Why should the company choose me? Why am I different? I have tried to tell these interviewers why I am unique and why they should choose me, but nothing has worked so far. With more than fifteen interviews and no offer in site, there must not be anything special about me, nothing that makes me stand out or seem better than those other candidates. I don’t know what more I can say anymore. With each interview, I feel smaller and smaller. I feel insignificant, unworthy, and desperate. I feel insignificant compared to the world, for I am only one small spec in this universe. I feel unworthy compared to my friends and classmates who already have multiple job offers. I feel desperate to get a job not to choose the correct career path, but instead to please myself, my own expectations, and the expectations of others.

With this piece, I wanted to express this feeling of inadequacy, the constant feeling of “I’m not good enough.” Throughout my entire life, there has always been pressure from multiple people, such as myself, my parents, my teachers, my bosses, my friends, my relatives. I want the viewer to empathize with my stress, my frustration, and these feelings of pressure to be successful. On the outside, the character appears frustrated and angry – angry at the fact that she tries so hard during these interviews but still sees no reward. The acting portrays these angered feelings. From the tone of the character’s voice and this transition from upbeat and optimistic to frustrated and angry, the viewer can sense the buildup of emotions with each passing interview. As the character progresses with each trial, her emotions take over her persona. Ironically, as she tries harder and harder, she only becomes more frustrated, which would negatively affect an interviewer’s perception of her. On the inside of the character are feelings of worthlessness, insignificance, emptiness, and inadequacy. As these feelings intensify, her outer frustration increases as well.

The words she says specifically were chosen because this generic answer is what any MIT student would say, thus taking away the meaning. “I have a great academic background from MIT, and I am motivated.” Everyone can say that, but how do you differentiate yourself or make the interviewer believe that you really *are* motivated. The words I say at my interviews seem so trivial sometimes. When it comes down to it, everyone at MIT has skills and is motivated and will say so. So then how does one get a job? How do I convince the interviewers to pick me? The word choice is also ironic because as she becomes more frustrated, the words lose even more meaning because her outer disposition is unconvincing and consumed by anger.

Besides the displayed emotions, the camera position plays a significant role in this message. With each successive iteration, the character becomes smaller and smaller within the field of view. She becomes farther and farther away from the viewer, more detached from the outer world. At the end of this long table, she appears as this insignificant little spec in such a large universe. The size of the character in the field of

view corresponds with her inner feelings of worthlessness. It symbolizes how small I feel interview after interview, as my confidence dwindles. I chose to use minimal editing, keeping the piece very plain and simple communicate the main emotions. I wanted the viewer to be more focused on the character and identify with her frustration, instead of being distracted by multiple transitions or other editing effects.

It is ironic that this prestigious school supposedly opens doors for its students. Many think we have this choice of jobs and that any company would want someone from MIT. What people don't understand is that when we are recruiting, we are competing amongst our own peers. There are high expectations and intense pressure on each and every one of us to find a job – but not any job – a job that is successful and deemed worthy. How? How can I do this? How can I be motivated anymore, especially when my frustrations and feelings of worthlessness continue to intensify? I feel as if I've done all that I can do. Why am I better than the other candidates? I don't know anymore.