

MLK Design Seminar
17.922 IAP13
Assignment 3 – Autobiography
M.I.T. Student

I am the child of two, Cape Verdean immigrants who came to America in the 1980's and met shortly afterwards. I come from a decent sized immediate family, two older, half-siblings, and two younger siblings. I have always been the smart kid in the family (my baby sister will probably soon take the title from me) and as I've grown older I've become a leader among my siblings and younger cousins, a role which I welcome. My extended family is rather ridiculously large. I have over twenty aunts and uncles, 63 first cousins, and over 81 second cousins. I don't know much of my extended family well, most of them are still living back in Cape Verde, but the family that does live here in the US has always been very close.

Being the son of immigrants who received very little education in a third world country (my mother never went to a day of school and my father dropped out in high school to help his family's farm) made education an extremely important part of my life from early on. Although they were unable to take full advantage of a strong educational system, they made sure that I would have that opportunity. I was born into the lower class and I feel that my socioeconomic status played a large part in my upbringing. I went to possibly the worst elementary school in the Boston area and was able to come out with a good basis somehow. From there I entered into advance work class for sixth grade and was able to pass the test held throughout Boston to attend the best high school in the city and one of the best in the country, Boston Latin School (the first public school ever in the US).

It was around 10th grade in my physics class that I really started diving into science that I found really interesting. Physics seemed to click with me very well and made perfect sense to me and allowed me to apply the skills that I had honed within the mathematics discipline. I was able to do quite well in high school, completing 7 advanced placement courses and graduating ninth in a class of 383, the highest ranked student of color in my year. When I made the decision to go to MIT, it was pretty much a no-brainer. I'll admit that I enjoy being the best and MIT, the best university in the world (especially for engineering fields) seemed like the right fit.

I didn't decide to become an Electrical Engineering & Computer Science major until the IAP of my freshmen year, about 12 months ago actually. That was when I wrote my first ever "Hello World" in a python coding class that I was taking, and I fell in love with programming. Although I often have a lot of difficulty with the classes in course six, I will continue to push through with it because it is something that I actually enjoy doing, not to mention the money after graduation will be nice (the money now is even nice!).

I have faced many an obstacle in my life time. These obstacles have often been tied to my socioeconomic status and my race and have really affected the person that I am today. I am not quick to trust, but I am described as a generally friendly individual. I am outspoken, easygoing, and love to laugh more than anything. College has made me anti-commitment, but I doubt that'll last forever. I love music, but I will admit that I'm biased and only listen to Rap/Hip-Hop, R&B,

Caribbean and Cape Verdean music. I thoroughly enjoy going out and hanging out with my boys, but I feel that I can emotionally connect with women on a friendship level stronger at times and therefore keep a good amount of close female friends.

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