



Lies can be detected accurately in text 48–67 percent of the time using information such as use of pronouns and emotions.

ADVICE

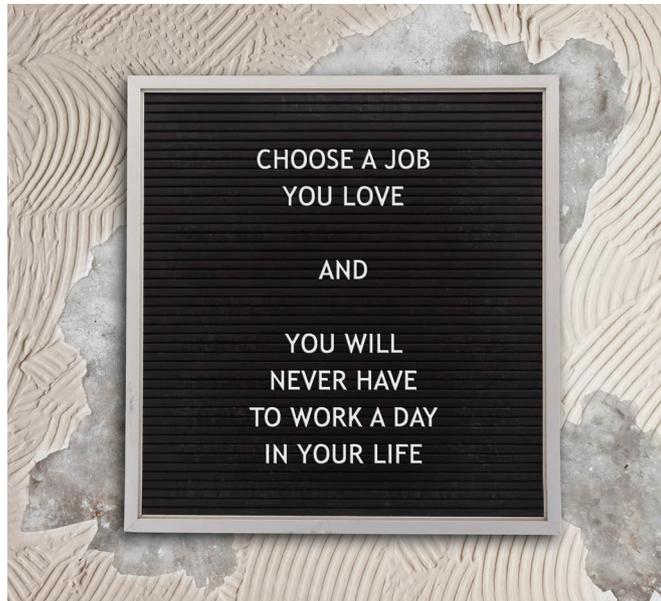
A Call For Passion

Becoming a graduate student in the sciences and engineering is usually accompanied with mixed feelings. There is a sense of pride in joining the academic elite revolutionizing society, and yet there is a feeling of inadequacy as we compare ourselves to the leaders of our fields. The lives of graduate students can best be exemplified by the numerous jokes that make light of the graduate student lifestyle: the love of free food, the torment of the never-ending task list, constant scoffing by the advisor, and a non-existent social life. Some students have reached a level of disparity that they no longer differentiate between the humor of graduate life and their current situation.

This harsh reality will often lead emotional junior researchers to ask themselves these simple questions: “Do I really need this? Wouldn’t I have more fun in the ‘real’ world? More money, less stress...” This train of thought leads to endless struggles that sometimes die off or lead to dropping out. The key thing to remember is that almost everybody goes through this struggle, yet so few ever talk about it. The reason for this conformed silence is we believe our feelings are unique and we should be ashamed of this “inferiority” amongst our

fellows. A short earnest discussion with a fellow student or an advisor can help set our mind at ease.

From our experience there is at least one additional remedy—passion! If you are truly passionate about what you are doing then



several bad meetings/days/weeks/months will not cause you to doubt yourself. Passion will keep you on course when your path gets blurry. Passion will make the sleepless nights seem worth their while, the free pizza taste better, your research seem easier, and justify those endless hours. Passion will bring you to the top of your field.

So the key question is, how to bring passion to your research? That’s a tough one and the answer is entirely up

to you. We offer several suggestions we believe can help you on your journey:

► Volunteer, not only will you be surrounded by other people who feel passionate about the same goal, you will also feel you are accomplishing something. You will cre-

leagues in for new discussions. These conversations serve multiple purposes: collaboration, inspiration, new friendships, and taking that long-needed break.

► Avoid poisonous/toxic/negative students. You will find amongst your colleagues a few who can literally suck the fun and life out of the best things.

► Leave your comfort zone and try a new research domain/field; it could be that your current research field is not exciting you enough.

► Learn from other people’s experiences. Richard Hamming has a great talk, “You and Your Research,” about the beginning of his career at Bell Labs, and Richard Feynman goes into a detailed account of his colorful and brilliant career in his autobiography, *Surely You’re Joking, Mr. Feynman!*.

The Ph.D. stage of your career should be exciting, refreshing, invigorating, and so much more. So before calling it quits, try one of the many options that stand before you. And don’t forget to bring your passion with you and enjoy.

Biographies

Oded Green recently graduated from Georgia Tech with a Ph.D. in computational science and engineering with a focus on high performance computing and social network analysis.

Yoav Green is a Ph.D. student in mechanical engineering at the Technion and his studies focuses upon electrokinetic and nano-fluidics.