

## Physical Attributes

While I was interviewing my subject, Derek, he exhibited certain physical attributes that were easily noticed when the interview was reviewed. Most physical traits and motions continued to be seen as the interview continued. I believe most were unintentional and without thought to the action. However, a few were deliberate. Some areas of physical attributes that Derek exhibited were posture, gross body movements, hand gestures, facial expressions, and eye contact.

I first took notice of Derek's posture. He was sitting on an ottoman with a slightly slouched posture throughout the majority of the interview. His knees were facing directly forward, but his upper body was turned slightly to the left to face the camera more directly. His legs were not facing directly forward like the rest of his body because they were in line with the edge of the ottoman that he was seated on. For the majority of the time when Derek was speaking, he had his head slightly leaned to the right. This was emphasized when he was deep in thought about something, which leads me to believe his critical thought process throughout the interview was what caused this leaned position. I believe Derek's posture was a physical attribute that was unintentional in nature.

Secondly, I saw some gross body movements that Derek made throughout the interview. Near the very beginning of the interview, I asked him about his favorite toy. When he responded to the question, he picked up specific toys and showed them to the camera as he spoke about each of them. This movement was deliberate in nature and was done to explain what he was saying even further. Also, Derek made a deliberate movement to pick up a Subway cup, that he had on the ground to the left of him, to take a drink. He took a few drinks out of the cup throughout the beginning of the interview until the cup had emptied. When he realized the cup was finally empty, Derek showed the cup to the camera and said, "I think my cup's empty." He then proceeded to place it back on the ground. I believe he showed the cup and made the statement about it being to explain the noise the straw was making when it was no longer being productive.

Next, some hand gestures came in to play. Derek's hand gestures were a mix of deliberate and unintentional in nature. The deliberate hand gestures were used to further describe what he was saying. For instance, when Derek was speaking of an island, he motioned his hands as to outline a very small, round island. Also, when he said "Wheeeeeeee" and spoke of something falling, he moved his hand in a falling arc formation to help me visualize the fall. Some of his other hand gestures were unintentional. For example, throughout the length of the interview, Derek's left hand was fidgeting and picking at the corner of the ottoman that he was seated on. This was probably happening due to him being nervous in front the camera. Another unintentional hand gesture I noticed was that when Derek was thinking very hard about a question, he would bring his hand up under his chin, sort of like the "Great Thinker" pose. This motion was definitely an action taught to him by society, but I do believe in this case it was unintentional.

Furthermore, very subtle physical attributes that Derek exhibited were facial expressions. He was not very expressive with his face, but he did make a few small movements there. He smiled slightly when he was talking about something he was fond of. A specific example of this was when he spoke about the "dance contest" in Club Penguin. That was one of his favorite parts of Club Penguin, therefore he showed a slight smile when he spoke about it. When Derek was confused about something, he would wrinkle his brow just slightly. This happened mostly when he did not understand the question I had asked, or if he needed to ask a question for clarification. A few facial expressions were common as Derek spoke. He pursed his lips, licked his lips, and blinked quite often. Licking his lips is one of his habits that he does when he feels anxiety or nervousness.

Finally, eye contact, or lack thereof, was very noticeable during the interview. For the most part, Derek avoided eye contact completely, especially when he was speaking. On the other hand, when he was asking questions of clarification or waiting for the next question, he would make direct eye contact with me. He tended to look around nervously quite a bit during the interview. In fact, his focus was shifting almost constantly throughout the interview. I think his lack of direct eye contact can be attributed to his nervousness.

In conclusion, Derek had some very distinct and some very subtle physical attributes as the interview went on. Some were mostly deliberate with gross body movements and hand gestures, and others were mostly unintentional like eye contact, posture, and facial expressions. Each motion and physical change during the interview made up the physical attributes of Derek and made the responses more than just words.