

Donor # 4348 Interview Notes

Donor 4348 is wearing a light green polo shirt, brown nicely fitted dress pants, and brown leather shoes. He looks like a well groomed law student. The donor has broad shoulders, and a large build with a round face, big open hazel (very light brown) eyes and a crew cut that may be all that's left from his time spent in the military.

The donor expresses himself with an extremely dry wit. There were moments where I wanted to laugh, particularly as he described his large family, but part of me was wondering if he was intending humor or not. As an example, the donor had originally reported that one of his brothers is depressed. However, when I asked him about this, he said that his brother has never been diagnosed as depressed, but rather it is just really depressing to talk to him, as he has a heavily pessimistic outlook on life. So the brother is not actually dealing with depression, the family just decided to label him a depressing person. While discussing his family the donor told me many anecdotal stories. I found them colorful and was especially impressed that he knew so much about his grandparents' lives. He told me that his maternal grandma is the type of lady who, upon having a heart attack, stopped to *put on her face* (apply makeup) before driving herself to the hospital. She spent her whole life working in a beauty salon and is a *real firecracker*, according to the donor. He was the most comfortable and engaged when discussing his family.

This donor likes to talk. He is thorough when telling stories and I can tell that he spends time thinking through and reflecting about his experiences. We spoke about his decision to take a year off and teach English in Japan. He said that he wanted to immerse himself in a culture that is very different from his. Donor 4348 grew up in a small town in the Midwest. He wanted to learn Japanese and saw living in a place where he couldn't understand street signs, and where there are three different written languages as a wonderful challenge. He ended up living in a *small town* (according to its inhabitants) on the outskirts of Tokyo. The town has a population of 300,000 people and was by far the most populated place the donor had ever lived. He really enjoyed the experience, and especially liked the new and different foods.

When I asked donor 4348 about his experiences in law school he said that he began expecting to be a *great civil litigator* but his experience so far has shown him that transactional litigation may have more of the human component he enjoys, as they spend more time talking with clients and the opposing councils. The donor told me he has a *people preference* over places, events, things, and even ideas and both mine and the lab staff's experience have shown us that this donor does enjoy interacting with people. He is a self-labeled idealist and says *there is a difference between being passionate about something and being able to be a good advocate*. He feels that he has held on to his *Midwestern innocence* and that while he has a passion for civil justice, he is still learning how to translate this passion into an effective way of helping people. The donor told me, *I'm 34 and the idealism hasn't been beaten out of me yet*. I think this is a very good description of himself.

Overall the donor came across as sincere, self-reflective, and able to share his life like an open book. Throughout our interview, I got the sense that talking about why he makes decisions and what he plans to do with his life was providing the donor with an opportunity to assess what he has learned from his life. He said several times, *I'm always still learning, every day*. Donor 4348 is intelligent and loves to challenge himself. He was the only kid in his large family who loved to read and he told me he spent a lot of his childhood with his nose in a book. He thinks that maybe his idealism comes from that foundation. Also, when given the choice between the familiar and the unknown he will always choose the unknown. He loves the challenge of experiences like moving across the country or around the world.