

Screen 1:

**A short film celebrating
usjournal.com's first 10 years online
1996 – 2006**

usjournal.com: Serving international students and U.S. campuses that want to welcome them.

Screen 2:

Plus Discamus

Start of Screen 3:

Learn more.

Learn more about yourself.

Mika looks at himself in the mirror for a few seconds.



window ^
<http://www.wparkerattorney.com/flash/hills.htm>

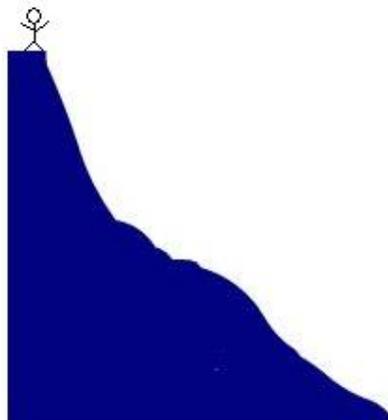
mirror ^
back of Mika >

scene: bathroom

*Mika then glances out the window,
at which time Ning's <http://www.wparkerattorney.com/flash/hills.htm> flash begins
and enlarges to full-screen.*

*The flash presentation inserts a tiny red and blue thing at the base of the mountain.
As the incline comes into focus, we realize that the "thing" is Mika.
Pause when Mika reaches the peak of the mountain, his arms raised in victory.*

Learn more about the world.



Learn more... in the USA!

Use the blue horizontal lines to transition through a blur of clouds / stars to a scene in a galaxy far far away.



Continue with a wide view of a planet.



Continue to hone in... and zoom.



Zoom further into a building.



Zoom in through a window on the 2nd floor office; there is a red velvet chair with its back to that window; a 50-year-old blue alien sits in the chair, visible only by his 3-fingered hand tapping on the arm of the chair; zoom in on the gold plate on his desk: "Minister of Education".

Minister of Education: Mika, I have called you here today for one very special reason. You have been chosen for a mission that will ultimately help our planet. We've observed you in many different scenarios, for many months now. And we think you are capable of achieving the objective.

Zoom in to a TV / computer screen, as the Minister points and clicks a remote control to turn it on.

Zoom out to the exterior of Mika's house, then zoom in through a living room window. Mika's Dad is sitting in a big green chair, slouching. Mika enters the house, and checks his watch.



Mika *[worried]*: Dad, what's wrong? Why are you home from work so early? Didn't you get the promotion? *[His eyes get big and he starts to ramble]* Did you lose your job? Are we going to have to live out in a crater somewhere? Does mom know yet?

Mr. Slimeborn *[sighs exasperatedly]*: Mika, calm down. Everything is going to be fine. I just didn't get the promotion, that's all.

Mika: *[looking slightly more relieved but still confused]*: But why Dad? I mean, you've worked there for years now. You know the business better than anyone else.

Mr. Slimeborn: Well, apparently my colleague has more "global savvy".

Mika: What do you mean?

Mr. Slimeborn: Son, I'm from a different generation than you. I don't know much about technology. I don't know much about other planets or other cultures, either. There's a whole universe out there, waiting to be explored. Sure, I know my business, but that just isn't enough these days. To tell you the truth, I can understand why my boss offered the promotion to my colleague, who lived abroad. He's just more "worldly" than I am. *[sighs and walks away slumped]*

[Mika ponders this]

[Zoom out to the screen in the Minister's office, where we see him from behind the chair, clicking the remote so Mika can see another example. This time, Mika and his Mother are chatting in the kitchen.]

Mrs. Slimeborn: Now, come with me to welcome our new neighbors. They just moved from another galaxy, and they probably haven't made many friends yet. I'm sure they'll just LOVE these fresh-baked biscuits...

[Zoom in on Mrs. Slimeborn and Mika on the new neighbor's porch; the neighbor and her pretty daughter (green faces) look confused, and pushes the plate of biscuits into Mrs. Slimeborn's hands, shaking her head "no" and babbling in a different language:]

Subtitle - On my planet, biscuits are only used for ceremonial funerals of high-ranking public officials. Thank you, but I cannot accept them.

Mrs. Slimeborn: But they're only biscuits. I baked them myself. I don't understand. I'm sorry.

[She and Mika walk away, red-faced, as the Mother neighbor looks on, insulted. The pretty daughter, however, winks at Mika. They exchange glances.]

[Zoom out to the screen in the Minister's office, where we see him from behind the chair, clicking the remote so Mika can see a third example. This time, Mika and his cousin Jeb are chatting in the living room.]

Jeb: Oh Mika, it was just wonderful! Sure, I learned a lot in the classroom, but when you're studying on another planet, EVERYthing is a learning experience! You should taste this strange flat food they call pizza. Believe it or not, I **was** able to find a little shop that sold some of our favorite foods from back home. Yeah, I'd like to go back to the USA and earn my PhD in a couple of years.

[Jeb sighs and gets misty-eyed; Mika seems to be in deep thought]

[Cut back to Minister's office]

Minister: So you see, Mika, the signs are there. You understand why it's so important to study abroad, to study in the USA. The hope, the desire -- I can see it in your eyes. There are never any guarantees in this business, but you have what it takes to succeed.

Mika: *[stammering; overwhelmed]* Sir...I...I don't know if I can handle it...

Minister: We know you can do it, Mika. One bit of advice: Use **usjournal.com** as a powerful tool to achieve your mission.

Mika: *[hesitantly]* OK, I'll do it.

Minister: Good. Now take this envelope. Read its contents carefully. Burn it when you are finished. Tell no one of this meeting. Oh, and take that spy costume; it will help her find you. *[gestures towards his closet]* Now go. And good luck.

Mika: Who is supposed to find me?

Minister: You'll see. Now go.

[James Bond tune?]

[cut to scene of Mika's room; he opens the envelope. There's a list of three items:



1. Academic Preparation. 2. Funding Resources. 3. Visa Application. He gazes into a mirror and pictures himself receiving a diploma, and becoming minister of education; he sits at his desk studying in his spy costume; time goes by, as seen on his wall clock and through his window; he is laying asleep on his books, when suddenly he jumps up]

Mika: Oh no, I'm gunna be late.

*[Cut to exam room. Mika is wearing his spy costume; his shoes are untied and his hair is unkempt; he **taps his pencil on the computer keypad**, anxious for the online test to begin.]*

[In walks Mika's pretty green neighbor, Sharlaine; he gets dreamy-eyed; she sits next to him.]

Sharlaine: Nice suit. *[She leans over toward Mika.]* You're the boy he recruited to work with me, eh? *[raises an eyebrow]* The Minister told me you were smart, but he didn't warn me that you were cute, too.

*[The computer screen indicates that the test will begin in three seconds; Mika and Sharlaine work diligently as the **clock ticks**]*

*[Sharlaine finishes before Mika; she flips her hair over her shoulder as she glances at him. Just as Mika finishes, the clock counts down to 00:00 seconds remaining. **Buzzer sounds.**]*

Mika to Sharlaine: So, who are you anyway?

Sharlaine: I'm Sharlaine. And you're Mika. *[she brushes past him]*

A few days later...

*[Mika is walking down the school hallway **FOOTSTEPS**; a group of kids are gathered by a bulletin board; some are crying, others are smiling; Mika pushes his way to the front; he runs his finger down a list to his name and then across; he has just made the cut]*

Mika: Yess!! *[jumps up and pumps his fist]*

Sharlaine: So, you did well?

Mika: *[embarrassed at his antics]*: Err, yes, I did.

Sharlaine: Good. Cause I did, too. Now we have to secure funding, and get ready for the visa interview...



[Mika is back home, at the dinner table with his Mom and Dad.]

Mr. Slimeborn: So, son. You scored well on your exams. What's next?

Mika: Dad, I want to study in the United States. I've done my research, mostly via usjournal.com

Mr. Slimeborn: It's pretty expensive. Are you sure you will make the most of our investment?

Mika: The U.S. is the best. With an American degree, I can do anything. More than 500,000 universal students study in the USA every year. Most campuses have staff to support students just like me. I've been corresponding with a few of the advisors for months, via e-mail.

Mr. Slimeborn: Your older cousins **HAVE** done pretty well for themselves, since they came back from studying in the States.

Mika: And I'll do even better. I know it's the right choice for me. You'll see.

[Mr and Mrs Slimeborn glance at each other, and nod in agreement.]

[Cut to Mika's room, where he and Sharlaine are on the telephone, split-screen]

Sharlaine: That's great! We're both two out of three. Listen, whatever you do, just be prepared for the interview. If you don't, I'll be studying solo in the USA. And the Minister will not be happy...

[Cut to the Embassy.]



[Use this text for three conversation bubbles popping out of the Embassy]

U.S. colleges, universities and English Language Centers are eager to welcome qualified students from abroad.

As a matter of fact, the student visa application process has gotten quicker and easier. As long as you follow the rules, the probability is high that your application will be approved.

[Zoom to a small cubicle with Mika and the Interviewer]

Interviewer: Why do you want to study in the USA?

Mika: I want to study alongside the best scholars in the world, in modern facilities. I want to learn new skills to help me succeed at home.

Interviewer: Have you been accepted by a U.S. campus?

Mika: Yes. *[showing official letter of acceptance]* They have excellent faculty for my field of study. People from all over the universe go there to conduct research.

Interviewer: Impressive. And how do you intend to pay for your U.S. education?

Mika: Here are my parent's bank statements, and a letter from my uncle stating that he will sponsor me as well.

Interviewer: What will you do when you return home?

Mika: I will apply to work at my uncle's company, where I interned for the past two summers.

Interviewer: OK. We don't have time for any more questions. We'll let you know.

Mika: Thank you, sir.

[A few days later, Mika gets a phone call. He picks it up.]

Mika: Umm hmm...yes...I see... *[sounds falsely concerned]*

[Hangs up]

Mika: All right!!! I did it!!!

[Zoom to the Minister's Office, where Sharlaine and Mika are standing in front of the desk]

Minister: I knew you two would do it. Now, go and represent your planet well. Learn everything you can in the USA, and come back here to share it. We'll be waiting for you.



[Plane / space shuttle departs for earth. Use this as entry point into USA: <http://www.usjournal.com/img/uwm-air.gif>]

Other accessible artwork:

<http://www.usjournal.com/en/related/montage/img.html>



Modify / reverse the introduction scene to come full circle in the Learn More process:
<http://www.wparkerattorney.com/flash/hills.htm>

Conclusion: Mika and Sharlaine head off into the sunset together – off to orientation.

Final Screen:

Happy Anniversary, usjournal.com!
Generating inquiries. Generating ideas. Online since 1996.

Special thanks to our Virtual Internship Team:
Barbara Billups, Catie Kinger, Holly Moncavage, Ning Ong