

Dear Sir,

Thank you for taking the time to ask an assistant to send me your rejection form mail.

I'm sure that you are now very busy in interviewing and selecting the right candidates for your prestigious opportunity that you are offering, so please don't trouble to reply.

Needless to say, from my perspective, I am immensely disappointed in your decision. However, I did not like the word 'unfortunately' in your letter. I certainly hope you did not leave your selection process to chance. Obviously, as I would expect, 'the standards of all applications were extremely high' – since you've only sent out invitations to those who met a certain criteria; you need not insult my intelligence.

I assume that, like yourself and whoever was 'fortunate' enough to be chosen; anyone who had the displeasure of receiving your letter of encouragement would absolutely loath repeating the same mistakes. Perhaps if it isn't too much trouble to write for 10 or so people, even just in dot points, you could provide feedback on why we were overlooked.

Oh no, how foolish of me! I should have been able to tell from your form letter that you are very busy. So please ignore the above request. Here, let me offer an answer for you. **Sun Tzu** in *The Art of War* commented: *'That which depends on me, I can do. That which depends on the enemy, cannot be certain'* *'Thus, one may know how to gain victory, but may not be able to do so.'* Applying this philosophy to our situation, it would be reasonable to justify the lack of explanation in your form letter as to why we were disregarded in your selection process. We won't be able to blame you as it is suggested, very few adjustments that we could have made. Excellent reason, wouldn't you agree? I'll recommend it as an addition to your form letter in future.

But of course, don't misinterpret my letter as one of spite. Naturally, like you highlighted, I am also certain that I will succeed in whatever I choose to pursue. 'I have ran out of ways to fail; now I can only succeed.' In other words, I insist on thanking you for your kind words and underlying message of motivation hidden inside your form letter of rejection: for every 'no' brings me closer to a 'yes'. Nothing would bring me more joy than to say 'thanks for the form letter' to you at my graduation.

Lastly, I would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to those who were, hopefully, not by luck or chance, crafty and skillful enough in their applications letters to arrive at the interview stage. Of course, given the right kind of encouragement and guidance that you would bestow on the 'fortunate' two, I am, with the outmost conviction that they will not only succeed, but excel in your program.

Again, I understand that you and your assistants are very busy, so please don't trouble your assistant to type me a reply.

Likewise, I wish you well for the future.

Derek Hui
Still an Accounting Student.