

Frank Question Mark's Journey to a master's degree

Format: 60-Second Talking Head / Stage Version

INT. NEUTRAL SPACE / STAGE — DAY

FRANK stands center. Casual. Confident. A hint of chaos behind the eyes.

FRANK

So... I've decided to go for my master's degree.

(beat)

Yeah. That's right. I'm leveling up in real life now.

(beat)

Which is funny, because when I hear the word "Master"...

I don't think about college.

I think about Master Yoda.

(leans in slightly)

"Do... or do not. There is no try."

(beat, then to audience)

Yeah, Yoda. We have to deal with Canvas submissions for homework now. Can you imagine trying to submit a homework assignment to Canvas at 11:59 PM? Pretty tough if you ask me.

(pause for laugh)

Then there's Master Chief from Halo...

Saving humanity. Fighting alien armies...

Meanwhile I'm fighting... a PDF that won't upload.

(beat)

And every Master needs an apprentice, right?

Like The Apprentice.

Except my apprentice is Google.

(looks at imaginary phone)

"Google... what is APA format again?"

(beat)

Then you got Master Blaster from Mad Max.

Two dudes... one Master title.

That's basically every group project in grad school.

One person doing all the work...

...and the other guy going—

(shift tone)

“I’ll handle the vibes.”

(pause)

And of course... the Dungeon Master from Dungeons & Dragons.

Controls monsters, magic... entire universes.

Meanwhile my professor controls... my weekend.

(beat)

But when this is all done...

(straightens posture, proud)

You’ll have to address me properly.

(beat)

Master Frank... Question Mark.

(beat)

Which honestly sounds less like an academic title...

...and more like the final boss of a very confusing video game.

(looks directly into camera)

“Defeat him... and unlock... the student loan repayment plan.”

BLACKOUT.