**1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.**

From my positions as a parts manufacturer to computer programmer and now co-captain of the robotics team, I have committed over 350 cumulative hours into not only building robots, but also managing and expanding a cohesive team. Coming from a small school of about 800, our robotics team definitely did not have the largest reputation; however, I pride myself in the level of recognition that I have helped my team attain over the years. Towards the beginning of my junior year, I realized my school and its surroundings were lacking something. Students, members of the community, and even some of my peers had vague ideas about what the robotics team did, and more importantly, why the message of STEM was so valuable. That’s why a significant portion of my experience was dedicated to spreading STEM throughout the community. Since my junior year, I’ve spoken at local elementary schools, showcased the robot at community gatherings, hosted Kickstarter demonstrations for non-affluent schools to form their own robotics clubs, and mentored incoming students on the skills that I learned with the team. In the 2016 season, our team won the Chairman’s Award in Silicon Valley-- the most prestigious award in the First Robotics congratulating the team that most actively spread STEM throughout their community-- for the first time because I had led a committee to apply for the award.

So what drove me to spend all of those hours planning, collaborating, and mentoring, when I could have just gone with the flow? When I was a freshman, a senior came up to me and showed me how to make a round washer on the lathe. In many respects, my entire decision to pursue STEM was due to that moment. A simple demonstration led to so many enlightening experiences. That’s why I spend the time doing what I do: I want to extend that same experience that I had to as many people as possible and hopefully make the community a better place along the way.