

Mateo Gomez

INTD 100

Professor Hanson

17 September 2020

### **Leadership**

For three years in High School, I participated in our Model United Nations Club. Before my senior year, I decided I would run for a spot on the board. To my surprise, I ended up winning the position I wanted and was immediately thrust into a position of decision making. One of our club's advisors (we only had two) had left the school the previous year, so the board members were more integral than ever.

In need of a more effective way to track attendance of club meetings, trainings, and conferences, our advisor asked me to see if there was a way I could store all this information online. I began researching how to use google spreadsheets, and realized you could input formulas and assign numerical values to certain tiles. Since attendance was something we took into consideration when deciding who would be able to go on trips such as conferences in New York City and Hawaii, it was important that this information was organized and easily accessible. I was able to assign different point values for each setting, and had a separate spreadsheet tab where the point totals for each individual was calculated automatically. Since this saved so much time for inputting information, I was able to help in more ways than I ever expected.

Every week, we would hold mock MUN conferences as practice for all the members of the club in preparation for the real deal. I helped run/moderate debate each week, and was able to offer all of the members advice as well as tips that had helped me succeed in public speaking. For our first conference of the year, instead of being placed in an advanced committee by myself like usual, I volunteered to be paired in a partners committee with someone who had never been to a conference before so that I could help them be comfortable with debate. I offered advice and guided her on how to prepare for a conference. When the conference itself came around, it was clear to me that she was hesitant to speak in front of everyone. I continued to offer encouragement, advice, and led by example. Throughout the day, she spoke more and more, and even spoke by herself in front of the committee several times. We even ended up winning an award for outstanding performance during the conference. She had clearly become more confident that day, and later earned a spot on our school's trip to a conference in Hawaii (We have a large club, and there are only so many people we can take). Spending the conference in a committee with no partner, she was able to earn an award for her achievements. When I asked her about her committee experience, she told me she had employed many of the strategies I had taught her about when we were partners.

By spending enough time alone with my thoughts on how to solve the problem of how to store our information effectively, I was able to be even more productive and helpful in the club. Knowing the importance of leadership and guidance on others played a big part in my decision to volunteer to be put with someone who was inexperienced as well. Leadership is not only just inspiring, teaching, or guiding others, but also setting them up for success once you are no longer a part of their lives.

