***Describe how your experiences, perspectives, talents, and/or your involvement in leadership activities (at your school, job, community, or within your family) will help you to make an impact both in and out of the classroom while enrolled at UT. (250 – 300 words)***

As a leader, I have made countless mistakes. However, those mistakes are the best learning opportunities.

My student council debut started with a chaotic mess. It was one of the busiest weeks and several members were taken aback by the unexpected responsibilities they had to complete within a short deadline. The arts division, tasked to create posters for an upcoming event, contacted me and the core council members to consult their works. Upon receiving their design, we felt that the posters were too underwhelming. So, we rashly responded by criticizing every aspect of the poster, forcing them to do a complete revision. Consequently, the art division was devastated and grew bitter because they felt unappreciated. Even several of them were planning to leave the council before the inaugural ceremony.

Realizing my mistake, I attempted to converse with each art member to understand their situations and apologize on behalf of the core council team. Following this event, I decided to change my approach as a leader. I tried spending more time with the arts division, using my knowledge on photoshop to progressively teach them and inspire them. Not only did I invest my time acting as a mentor, I wanted them to feel comfortable as a vital part of the student council. As months passed by, I felt proud as I saw their designs and work ethic gradually improve.

I learned that being a leader is not all about the ability to manage. Being a great leader is to be resourceful and able to create a positive environment that motivates his peers. In UT, I would practice this newfound lesson to participate in organizations like the Texas Convergent. I will strive to connect all my peers, creating a positive environment to help each other in developing skills throughout the project.

Hi Samuel,

This is a great story that you have shared!

However, to better answer the prompt I think you could share a couple of different experiences or activities where you gained or developed skills that you could directly apply at UT. With supplemental essays that tend to have very limited word limits, it is crucial that you are direct and concise in answering the prompt—as they are looking for something very specific.

The prompt is also asking you to describe how these experiences will help you make an impact both *in* and *out* of the classroom. So far, you have only mentioned one example of how your experience or understanding as a leader could help you at UT outside of the classroom setting. It will also be of help if you know more about the skills or activities you will be required to show and perform during your time there. Then, you could directly link those requirements to the skills that you possess or have gained from your past experiences.

All the best,

Johana