***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)***

My student council debut started with a mess. I was a strict perfectionist who had to make sure everything worked according to my expectations. On one occasion, I found an event poster really underwhelming, so I gave the arts division a barrage of criticism, forcing them to do a full revision. Consequently, the art division was devastated and grew bitter. Even several were planning to leave the council before the inaugural ceremony.

Upon realizing my mistake, I apologized and decided to implement a different approach as a leader. I tried spending more time with them, 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. This approach worked a lot better.

I discovered that being a leader involves more than just being able to direct and instruct. Being a successful leader means having the flexibility to offer both wise counsel and psychological assistance through inspiration and motivation. A great leader should also attempt to foster a positive atmosphere by getting to know their peers, forging bonds of solidarity with each individual, and gradually gaining their trust.

I’ll put this learned knowledge into practice at UT by attempting to create a healthy and enthusiastic environment in the classroom and connecting peers into a mutually beneficial network. I will also join Code Orange where I would tutor underserved students who can't afford proper education. In this program, I could develop my mentoring skills while giving an impact to the people around me.

Hi Sam!

Well done on including an anecdote about how your involvement and your role at student council helped you hone your leadership skills. It is good to see that you’ve grown both intrapersonal and interpersonal skills.

Since this essay has limited word limit, you can revise some parts according to the comments I’ve left above to make the essay more unique. You can be more explicit in stating your contribution so that your leadership role appears more impactful.

It is critical in the last portion of your essay to show that you can make an impact both inside and outside classroom, so make sure your response is not abstract or vague. You’ve mentioned Code Orange, so visualize another role that you aspire to do in the classroom. Maybe starting a study club? Or joining Indonesian club to help future freshmen settle in a new campus and environment?

Best wishes,

Melinda

All in Editor

In the last part of the prompt, students are asked explicitly to explain how they'll "make an impact both in and out of the classroom while enrolled at UT."

It's critical for the student to speak directly to this part of the prompt and to explain how their past experiences, talents, perspectives, or involvement will help them make UT a better place—both in the classroom as well as in the dorms, in student organizations, and in any other area the student might be involved.

highlight moments in their leadership career that were especially significant or meaningful to them. These might be challenges or setbacks they had to tackle, conflicts they had to resolve, or opportunities they embraced, even if it meant stepping out of their comfort zone.

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Remember, the goal here isn't for students to rattle off a list of achievements from their resume. Instead, they should demonstrate that they've reflected thoughtfully on their past experiences, and that they've learned something from those experiences that will help them be a good member of the UT community.