***Prompt 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.***

Two hard slaps in the face during my internship, called internal resistance and miscommunication, nearly cost me my confidence. I’m glad, however, that I got slapped early. I experienced the tip of an iceberg called leadership that makes a team so solid it doesn’t waver in the face of adversity.

My main task was to work with 3 other interns to produce a marketing and budgeting plan for the company to attract customers. I was excited knowing how I could potentially contribute to the company’s revenue growth. So, I pushed my colleagues to get things done ASAP no matter the deadline and use the remaining time to go the extra mile. However, I was met with resistance by the others’ “If things ain't broke, don’t fix it” attitude.

After a few weeks of continuous resistance and sensitivity whenever ‘deadline’ was mentioned, I began to doubt myself. I started to find ways to adapt without compromising my principles. Thus, I met them halfway and would make casual bets on who could finish things early.

During my second month, things turned for the better. I’ve learned my colleagues’ pace and strengths. We began finishing tasks more efficiently: we consistently finished our tasks a few days in advance. However, much like how the Titanic got blindsided by an iceberg, our “interns” ship encountered our iceberg: A deadline typo from 11 to 21.

It was the 8th, but we were calm and collected thanks to our weekly bets. We adjusted our timeline to meet the original deadline (the 11th) as I delegated our tasks: I worked on marketing ideas, Stanley calculated the budget, Patricia communicated with the internal team, and James helped design the proposal. As I negotiated our deadline to our supervisor with a trembling heart, we were able to extend the deadline to the 15th. A couple of all-nighters later, we finished the task by the 13th.

We did miss our original deadline, but I was proud to see our development from a dishevelled team of interns into a solid team unfazed by adversities. I learned a lot about marketing and budgeting. I learned about effective team communication. Most importantly, I’ve developed some sort of a leadership style to lead by examples and positive reinforcements, which boosted my confidence to pursue my entrepreneurial dream.