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| Explain any challenges (outside of COVID-related) you have faced throughout your academic career,  including the dates or timeline below. (300 Words) |

I am a perfectionist in the organizations and groups I join, so I take on many roles in an organization to ensure that it can run smoothly and efficiently. I always want our programs to succeed, but sometimes they backfire because of miscommunication within the team. Because of this, I always feel the need to supervise my team closely and worry whether the team can work effectively and efficiently. My perfectionism caused me to take care of some of the work on my own. I could ask someone to be in charge of some responsibilities, but I want to ensure it is also up to my standard.

However, my busy-ness in student organizations and inexperience in time management caused a drop in my grades in December of 2022. There are so many responsibilities that I must look at that I focused on them more than my grades.

Since then, I’ve started to make changes in my division to ensure I have enough attention to improve my academics in the future. I’ve appointed my junior in the second week of December 2022 to oversee the organization’s operations so that I can spend more time attending to my grades. To ensure that the functions would work as they should, I have briefed the team about the goals we must accomplish before the end of 2022. Since I currently have my winter break, I would use this time to look at the comments from my report card. From there, I would formulate a strategy to ensure I got grades above 70%. This experience taught me that perfectionism is fine, but balancing my life outside the organization is equally important. I found that delegating tasks more will allow me to manage my time better while still ensuring the productivity and quality of an organization.

Hi Indra:

I understand you intend to portray your ‘perfectionism’ as a personality trait here. I personally think it’s a bit risky to make this the focus of your essay this since it can be seen in a negative light (i.e. a ‘humble brag’). I would focus less on your ‘perfectionism’ and more on your leadership experience in delegating tasks, since this says a lot about leadership and how you work with others.

Since this is an ongoing experience, I think this is a great opportunity for you to show off your growth in leadership. What you haven’t shown here is how you came to be able to trust your team members. You don’t know whether your delegation is going to work or not. What shifted in your thinking? Why were you willing to take that risk? What if the ‘productivity and quality’ of your organization don’t improve and the outcome is not what you intended?

Instead of concluding that delegating tasks allows you to manage time and ensure productivity and quality, I believe it would be great to show that despite your perfectionism, you learned to become a more well-rounded individual and leader.

All the best!