**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. (350 words)**

**DRAFT 2**

Silence. Pin-drop silence. That was how my first meeting as President of the Leo Club went.

We were strangers, and everything was online, which made things considerably harder. Offline, you couldn’t just be quiet when someone asked a question, but online life had made awkward silence an acceptable answer. The meeting felt fruitless, and it had me rethinking everything I knew about social interactions.

Two or three meetings later, I was growing tired of my unrequited efforts and decided on another approach. I started asking them to send their responses through the chat instead, and lo and behold: interaction! I remember the first message I got—the first glimpse of into personalities. I was ecstatic.

Through the meetings, I texted them individually and got a general gist of those who were reserved or outgoing. From that, I figured out which method of communication was more comfortable for them. Some preferred a direct conversation and constant guidance throughout their task, while others simply needed approval through text. Those who were closed off at the beginning, I had to cut short in meetings later on so we wouldn’t get sidetracked.

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Just like how a gardener would nurture their plants, there’s no one size fits all in leading a team. But, I learned that part of a good leader is being accommodating to my team and establishing an environment that would allow them to work to their full potential.

~~Fortunately, my seeds had borne fruit.~~

Hi Jess!

Congratulations on the award! It seems that you’ve done a great job leading your Leo Club. I think that your essay can really benefit if you can be more explicit with your contributions to the club. The admissions officers want to see a time when your leadership truly mattered to the club, so consider telling us more about your roles other than chatting them personally. I’ve left specific comments so that you can elaborate on several parts, and here are some questions that you can answer throughout your essay:

1. What is the Leo Club? Why does leading the club well matter to you?
2. What was the old approach? How was the online meeting at the beginning?
3. What responses did your members give you? What was your project that won the award?
4. What other initiatives did you take other than chatting them?
5. In the paragraph highlighted yellow, I can see some change in your team dynamics. What were your roles here? How did you get them to take initiative and involved in the club?

Adding these key details would help clarify your work ethic and achievements during your presidency.

Best wishes,

Melinda