**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.**

In junior year, I wanted to challenge myself, see where I stood with my knowledge of coding. Upon finding the Technovation Girls competition, I persuaded my best friends to join me. As one of the youngest participants in the senior division, my group lacked both coding and business knowledge, but despite our lack of skills, I was optimistic about our ability to learn and adapt to what was expected of us.

First, to find the problem we wanted to tackle, I initiated discussions on potential problems and solutions. After extensive research, we decided on the issue of water …, and proposed an app to …. In order to guide the designs of our app solution, I developed a paper prototype to set clear expectations for the outcome.

However, after a few group sessions, it felt like our work ethic was ineffective, because the deadline was drawing near and we were getting nothing done. Therefore, I delegated tasks into the app development and business team. As me and Felicia took computer science classes, the coding part became our main responsibility. As Nicole’s particularly good at finance and Teresa has a solid writing background, the business plan became their main responsibility.

I would hype our group chat to ensure effective communication while monitoring progress, offering help and urging them for feedback on the app and business plan. After numerous, never-ending meetings, our efforts paid off when we were awarded “favourite app” and advanced to the global semi-final round.

Through this competition, I learnt that effective leadership requires me to be able to think critically and comprehend the strengths and weaknesses of each team member in order to delegate tasks effectively. These qualities have shaped me into a creative thinker who can have an open mind and make wiser decisions to produce novel and effective solutions. With these newly acquired skills, I'll be better able to set clear expectations, demonstrate confidence in the team to bring out the best in each member, and get the best work ethic possible when I take on more responsibility for group projects in the future.