**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. (350 words)**

My most fulfilling leadership experience was when I led a project at BAWABALI, one of the biggest animal rescue organizations in Bali, to develop an automated animal feeder for them. I had created a functional version of this feeder that had been implemented in Oman and wanted to bring this to the strays at home.

I was managing this project in Indonesia while living in Oman. Time management was crucial because I had to finish developing prototypes to ensure that it was suitable for their main shelter in Bali. I had to plan ahead as we’d already set a timeline for the construction of the final product.

When I got to Indonesia, however, volunteers at BAWABALI were overwhelmed with the project. They felt discouraged because they were unsure of how the rescued animals were going to react to it. To encourage them, I demonstrated the results of my experiment with my own golden retriever in Oman. I informed them that the blueprint is actually simple and I educated them on the different components. This showed the volunteers that creating the product has the potential to save precious manpower at the shelter. Consequently, it would enable more volunteers to go out and save more stray animals from the streets. I also taught them how to adjust the timer on the feeder to dispense food at the optimal times.

Eventually, the project was finished on time despite my limited time in Bali. The feeder continued to work after I left and I even received a letter of appreciation from BAWABALI afterwards. I learnt that people have different thought processes so what might be simple to me can be challenging for them and vice versa. Therefore, I must look at something through a different perspective so I can understand their reasoning. This helped me develop my communication skills to explain my ideas clearly. I believed that my product had the potential to greatly aid them and this is vital because I share similar goals with BAWABALI. I am content that I was able to inspire people with my passion in helping stray animals.