***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)**

As part of my school’s community program, I was tasked with helping the staff to clean the school after dismissals. During breaks, we would get together and talk as Maya, one of the janitors, spoke of her past. Coming from a remote village, her school didn’t provide English courses. Working here at our school, where English was spoken everywhere, had slowly piqued her interest in studying English.

“Imagine if I had learned English, maybe I could have been a teacher here,” she said jokingly.

The conversations I had with them made me realize the privilege of studying English that I took for granted. Wanting to share this privilege prompted me to start an English tutoring program for the janitors. I started recruiting my friends to help me with a promise of free snacks after sessions. We coordinated with the school’s English teachers to create a suitable syllabus and coordinated with the staff members to work out a schedule.

For a year, we tutored the janitors thrice a week. We started with basic nouns, verbs, adjectives, and then slowly transitioned to compound and complex sentences as they got more comfortable. I would often facilitate group studies among the staff, task them with discussing a topic using English, set up long-term group projects to promote teamwork, and allow them to learn not only from me but their peers as well. Being the leader of the mentorship team, I had to constantly make adjustments to many factors such as the staff’s and volunteers’ availability and make sure every part of the program was in sync like gears in a machine.

This experience opened my eyes to the importance of fostering a collaborative environment. Motor gears have to cooperate perfectly with each other to achieve the desirable effect. Similarly, I had to consider the “gears” which were the staff’s respective progress or their mental state, whether they were too stressed or overwhelmed. As the leader, I was the gear with the source of motion, kickstarting the journey and making sure every gear was supportive to the growth of the staff members.

Hi Joe:

I made a few edits on the wording, but other than that, I think this is almost polished.