***Describe how your experiences, perspectives, talents, and/or your involvement in leadership activities (at your school, job, community, or within your family) will help you to make an impact both in and out of the classroom while enrolled at UT. (250 – 300 words)***

As a leader, I have made countless mistakes. However, those mistakes are the best learning opportunities.

My student council debut started with a chaotic mess. It was one of the busiest weeks and several members were taken aback by the unexpected responsibilities they had to complete within a short deadline. The arts division, tasked to create posters for an upcoming event, contacted me and the core council members to consult their works. Upon receiving their design, we felt that the posters were too underwhelming. So, we rashly responded by criticizing every aspect of the poster, forcing them to do a complete revision. Consequently, the art division was devastated and grew bitter because they felt unappreciated. Even several of them were planning to leave the council before the inaugural ceremony.

Realizing my mistake, I attempted to converse with each art member to understand their situations and apologize on behalf of the core council team. Following this event, I decided to change my approach as a leader. I tried spending more time with the arts division, using my knowledge on photoshop to progressively teach them and inspire them. Not only did I invest my time acting as a mentor, I wanted them to feel comfortable as a vital part of the student council. As months passed by, I felt proud as I saw their designs and work ethic gradually improve.

I learned that being a leader is not all about the ability to manage. Being a great leader is to be resourceful and able to create a positive environment that motivates his peers. In UT, I would practice this newfound lesson to participate in organizations like the Texas Convergent. I will strive to connect all my peers, creating a positive environment to help each other in developing skills throughout the project.

Hi Samuel,

This is a great story that you have shared! However, at the moment, this looks more like a Common App essay than a supplemental. There is too much focus on the story and not enough on how the experience will help you at UT. Shorten the former and elaborate on the latter – the story should not take more than one paragraph to tell.

The prompt is also asking you to describe how these experiences will help you make an impact both *in* and *out* of the classroom. So far, you have only mentioned one example of how your experience or understanding as a leader could help you at UT outside of the classroom setting. Be more specific here about how you can contribute to the organisation. For the classroom impact, think about what skills you’ve learned in SC and how they can help you in a learning/classroom context. What kind of student do you want to be?

All the best,

Johana & Chiara