**Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time.**

My friends sighed in concern after finding out I was grouped with the two peers they allegedly found challenging to work with for a film project weighing 30% of the grade, not to mention that every other group had over four members to work on such a significant project makes my group .

I wasn’t disheartened, however. My heart raced not of anxiety, but utter thrill for what was to come, especially after hearing the words of reassurance teachers gave me. “We’re confident you’ll succeed, but feel free to request for a new team allocation.” I refused the offer knowing that it would be no easy feat however. I constantly took initiative to become the ‘glue’ of our group as, without any force acting upon the team, the initial progress of the project was almost zero. Additionally, representing myself as the ‘leader’ that time would dissuade the members from partaking in the project, as the title alone may appear intimidating, imposing, and repulsive to indifferent individuals such as my groupmates.

Instead of allocating tasks forcefully, I listen and gently ask for input, thoughts, and ideas. In addition to working on the project itself, I reassured that my members are able to execute their roles, telling them that it’s alright if they need assistance, and faced them with an open mind, as if I were in their shoes. Though not perfect, we thankfully earned a 94 for our grade, yet a remark made by one of my teammates was what filled my heart with warmth and satisfaction. “This group is too wholesome :),” to quote a message from one of the members in our group chat. I had faith in my team from the start, but it was beyond me that they would feel as content as I did throughout the journey.

At first, the seemingly apathetic character is all there is to these individuals, but this thought is completely flawed; how someone is stereotyped by others mustn’t confine people into labels. Keeping an open mind and acting upon it, understanding that dealing with people is not a ‘one size fits all’ was why the project came to fruition. This is the essence of a leader’s mindset.

**Previous draft**

**Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time.**

“Oh no… good luck with that Ash,” my friends sighed in concern after finding out the two students I was grouped with for a film project weighing 30% of the grade, not to mention that every other group had over four members to work on such a significant project.

I wasn’t disheartened, however. My heart raced not of anxiety, but utter thrill for what was to come, especially after hearing the words of reassurance teachers gave me. “We’re confident you’ll succeed, but feel free to request for a new team allocation.” I refused the offer knowing that it would be no easy feat however, so I constantly took initiative to become the ‘glue’ of our group, because representing myself as the ‘leader’ that time would actually dissuade the members from partaking in the project, as the label alone may appear intimidating, imposing, and repulsive to indifferent individuals such as my groupmates.

Rather than allocating tasks in a forceful manner, I listen and gently ask for input, thoughts, and ideas. In addition to working on the project itself, I reassured that my members are able to execute their roles, telling them that it’s alright if they need assistance, and faced them with an open mind, as if I were in their shoes. Though not perfect, we thankfully earned a 94 for our grade, yet a remark made by one of my teammates was what filled my heart with warmth and satisfaction. “This group is too wholesome :),” to quote a message from one of the members in our group chat. I had faith in my team from the start, but it was beyond me that they would feel as content as I did throughout the journey.

At first, the seemingly apathetic character is all there is to that individual, but this thought is completely flawed; how someone is stereotyped by others mustn’t confine people into labels. Keeping an open mind and acting upon it, understanding that dealing with people is not a ‘one size fits all’ was why the project all came to fruition. This is the essence of a leader’s mindset.

Notes:

I can see that you’re trying to be more discreet and cautious in portraying your team members and your cause for concern. However, by not mentioning why your friends were concerned about your team members, the main point of the essay gets lost and the story becomes vague.

The reader would be asking questions like: Why were your friends concerned? Why did you have to become the ‘leader’ in your group? Who was apathetic?

It’s not that you should sweep the issue under the rug for fear of being seen as prejudiced towards your team members. Rather, to objectively portray the realities of leadership, you need to acknowledge that yes, there are people we may not agree with, or that other people stereotype negatively, or those with different values. Mention what the concern was, what other people thought, and what you did with that information throughout your leadership journey that lead to a positive outcome for yourself and others.

All the best!

**Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.**

While art, as cliche as it sounds, is how I channel my creativity, art and creativity to me isn’t merely for show, but a primary love language.

It’s been an ongoing tradition for me to surprise my parents with handmade crafts as a present, a gesture of gratitude, or a note of concern. The fact that even my messiest creations can bring light into my parents’ darkest days incites me to continue the custom. My father would often share how he’d cry tears of contentment after receiving the gifts I’d secretly slip into his office bag early in the morning. He’d often tell me how these gifts were the sole reason he’s able to push through.  It started off with simple A4 paper cards at the age of six, where I drew and clumsily colored stick figures of my parents and I holding hands. Through the years, I felt as if basic two-dimensional handmade cards weren’t enough. I believe that my parents deserved more than something repetitive; the more novel, the stronger the response. I then experimented with pop-up art, pleating sheets of paper to create interactive paper cards with puppets of people and planes, a functional picture frame, or self-sewn mini pillows, to name a few. Acknowledging my father’s fascination for music, I decided to utilize my ability to play instruments to synthesize a recording of a self-orchestrated *Happy Birthday.* It comprised of violin harmonies, the pianica, as well as my own vocals, specially dedicated for my father’s birthday a while ago.

Despite the love I firmly believe I hold, I’m not one who can vocalize their “I love you”s confidently. Thankfully, through my creative expression, I get to compensate for my lack of direct affection, and the feedback has shown that love does not have to be expressed one way.

**Previous draft**

**Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.**

I despised Arts class back in elementary school. Not because I wasn’t into creating, but pasting buttons on the incorrect area of the paper and coloring skies purple instead of blue would drop my grade down to a ‘D’. Ironically, it is only when I’m out of Art class that my creative juices can flow freely. That ‘D’ mark on my grade report did not repudiate my belief that I express creativity through creating art. Art and creativity to me isn’t merely for show, but a love language.

It’s been tradition for me to surprise my parents with handmade crafts as a present, a gesture of gratitude, or a note of concern. It started off with simple A4 paper cards at the age of six, where I drew and clumsily colored stick figures of my parents and I holding hands. Through the years, I felt as if basic two-dimensional handmade cards weren’t enough. I then experimented with pop-up art, pleating sheets of paper to create interactive paper cards with puppets of people and planes, a functional picture frame, or self-sewn mini pillows, to name a few.

Every time I’ve executed and ticked them off of my “Gift Ideas” list, more ideas start to spring up. Ultimately, the medium diversified through time. Acknowledging my father’s fascination for music, I decided to utilize my ability to play instruments to synthesize a recording of a self-orchestrated *Happy Birthday.* It comprised of violin harmonies, the pianica, as well as my own vocals, specially dedicated for my father’s birthday two years ago.

This tradition stays ongoing even until today. What incited me to keep going is the fact that even my messiest creations can bring light into my parents’ darkest days. My father would often share how he’d cry tears of contentment after receiving the gifts I’d secretly slip into his office bag early in the morning. He’d often tell me how these gifts were the sole reason he’s able to keep going.

Notes:

Great revised draft! I can see how you have worked to address the prompt and shown how you express creativity as a love language.

My comments above are to address and weave in your family’s reception of your gesture throughout your journey of creating and show how it motivated you to develop your creativity. Currently you only show this in your conclusion which I think is very heartfelt but a missed opportunity for you to include in the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs.

In the concluding paragraph I suggest for you to show your perspective, feelings, and reflection in creating and seeing how your creative gestures bring love to your family.

All the best!