**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.**

I had always shied away from taking leadership roles. However, this time I decided to get out of my comfort zone in a national business competition. I was hesitant to participate at first, but I knew I had to start somewhere, so I built a team to take on this opportunity.

The competition required teams of two, and I knew that good communication is key to a strong team. That’s why I formed a team with my close friend, Parth, whom I’ve built a strong bond with. His skill in Finance and Market Research really complements my product design skill. Thus, I believe that he’s the perfect partner for me and we’d be able to delegate tasks effectively.

The competition fell around the same time as our exam week, and I anticipated that there may be issues with allocating time for preparations. With this in mind, I created a timeline to set our own deadlines and ensure that things weren’t rushed. I also kept in mind to schedule routine meetings to be on track while ensuring that they did not clash with our personal schedules. Time constraints were also dealt with by delegating our tasks based on our skill sets.

However, there were complications leading up to the presentation day. During our rehearsal, we struggled to deliver the presentation effectively within the time limit: we were so nervous that we kept stuttering. Everything was in our mind, but our confidence as a first-timer was the problem. So, I prepared flashcards containing the key points of our presentation to keep our mind straight and boost our confidence.

While it was our first time participating in a business competition, learning and relying on each others’ strengths and planning ahead was what made it possible in the end for us to win first place. This experience taught me that a leader’s job is to inspire and keep the team together. Therefore, I aim to lead more in the future to learn more about myself and hone my leadership skills to be able to lead more teams to success.

**2. 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.**

Drawing was always a hobby of mine for as long as I can remember, but now it felt like my drawings lacked creativity. I felt that I was drawing merely for art’s sake in which how perfect it looked on the outside mattered more than the process behind it. Transitioning into adolescence was confining; I constantly felt trapped in my restless feelings and concerns, leading to me thinking of quitting drawing. However, I thought of turning to drawing once again, and starting fresh digitally. As I pour my thoughts into the screen, I somehow gain this newfound confidence; I’d find myself being able to express my feelings, thoughts, and ideas into my digital art, thus re-discovering my passion.

My drawings shifted more into simply whatever was in my mind, interpreting my thoughts into visual representations in the form of portraits, scenes, and colors. As I created more art pieces, I looked back and analyzed which elements or style of drawing I felt most comfortable with. This helped me discover my art style: combining realistic images into abstract backgrounds to represent my feelings that even I found hard to fully understand.

Moreover, I discovered more ways to use art other than as an outlet to express my feelings, which is to use it for others. I’d use digital art to call attention to current issues through my social media illustrations and create products to help people with their needs. This redefined creativity to me: a tool to express anything such as our own thoughts and things happening in the world. And I felt that digital art did just that for me as it served so much purpose, allowing me to learn more about myself and putting all my thoughts into one image by presenting those ideas visually through symbols.

By giving drawing another chance through digital art, I finally found what I needed to express my creativity, which allowed me to not only see but train my potential. I was no longer creating art to ensure it looked pretty, but instead focused more on how it made me feel and what it could do for others.