**Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.**

It took an ambush by the enemy, heavy criticism from my previous teammates, a ghosting from my old team, and, finally, bearing witness to my new team captain’s strategic skills to set me on the right path.

It started with me breaking my team’s - Flux Squadron - formation to impulsively invade the enemy’s territory alone during a Mobile Legend competition finals. In the end, we lost and my teammates bombarded me with complaints leading to me not becoming part of Flux Squadron’s future activities.

I didn’t understand why they were so upset. I was just acting with the best of intentions to help secure our first win in the finals. I was so absorbed in my world that I didn’t realize I was acting selfishly, costing me not only a win, but also friendships. As I reflected, perhaps, I need to communicate better with my team before I act on my own, but it was too late.

So I pondered for some time trying to determine how I could act less impulsive and communicate better. As a gamer, there shouldn’t be any better way than joining a new team and learning to communicate more effectively right? However, I was hesitant in making the same mistakes and burning more bridges in the process.

I fidgeted back and forth on social media: hours turned to days and finally turned to weeks before I could gather my courage to make contact with one team. Before that, however, I carefully wrote multiple versions of engagement messages on what to say: I started with a polite introduction followed by highlighting my gaming experiences.

After an interview asking why I left Flux Squadron, I felt a rush of cold sweat on my head dripping down the side of my face as I explained what happened. I lost any hope of getting into the team, but I was surprised that they accepted me.

My first month was tense. I mostly stayed timid and was very careful with my plays during practice, afraid that my impulsiveness would take over and risk myself getting kicked off the team. A dozen games later, I realized that they always start each game with serious strategic discussions, which was lacking in my old team. With a clear objective and strategy, I felt more focused and slowly began to not depend on impulsiveness like what I did in my old team.

Indra, the team captain, would never fail to spend 3 - 4 hours per week to improve our strategy, which includes communications. He always reminds everyone, especially me, that it’s alright to act based on impulse as long as I communicate it to someone in the team before I act. I put his advice on a post-it note, “COMMUNICATE YOUR IMPULSE,” and placed it at the top left corner of my monitor to remind myself. Ever since, I would try to always talk or chat in the game’s chatbox about anything outside of the agreed strategy.

Months later, I’ve learned the importance of strategy. I’ve learned to communicate with my teammates, making them able to anticipate my impulsiveness and respond accordingly. I’ve also learned to do the opposite: understanding and anticipating my teammates’ shortcomings and filling in the gap. A strong strategy, a strong communication, and a strong understanding of each other’s strengths and weaknesses was what significantly increased our chances of winning competitions.

Ultimately, I’ve learned the meaning of teamwork and am able to achieve greater things through the synergy of my team members. Therefore, as I meet and work with various people from different backgrounds in the future, I aim to always embody a culture of inclusivity, taking into account everyone’s ideas, instead of selfishly taking action on my own.