**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)**

**DRAFT 2**

Silence. Pin-drop silence. That’s all my first meeting as President of the Leo Club was.

We were strangers, everything was online, which made things considerably harder. Offline, you couldn’t just be quiet when someone asked a question, but online life had made their awkward gaps of silence an acceptable answer. The meeting felt fruitless, and it had me rethinking everything I knew about social interactions.

Two or three meetings later, I was growing tired of my unrequited efforts and decided to try another approach. I started asking them to send their responses through the chat instead, and lo and behold: interaction! I remember the first message I got—the first time I got a glimpse of their personalities. I was ecstatic.

Through the meetings, I texted them individually and got a general gist of those who were reserved or outgoing. From that, I figured out which method of communication was more comfortable for them. Some preferred a direct conversation and constant guidance throughout their task, and others simply needed approval through text. Those who were closed off at the beginning, I had to cut short in meetings later on so we wouldn’t get sidetracked.

There isn’t a “correct” way to lead, part of it is being accommodating to your team and establishing an environment that would allow them to work to their full potential. Just like how a gardener would nurture their plants, there’s no one size fits all in leading a team.

Towards the remaining seven months of my presidency, the team was fully involved. There was a constant exchange of ideas, everyone was taking initiative and even respectfully criticizing each other. Meetings became something I looked forward to, and it was astonishing to see how far we’d come. Our struggles weren't for naught, at the end of the year, the district governor himself had awarded us an “Outstanding Service” award.

Our effort had bore fruit.