**Prompt 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.**

My debut for student council president started with a mess. I was a strict perfectionist who had to make sure everything worked according to my expectations. On one occasion, the arts division produced a poster that was really underwhelming. So, I alongside other core council members that are as strict as me, gave them a barrage of criticism, forcing them to do a full revision. Consequently, the art division was devastated and grew bitter. Some were even planning to leave the council before the inauguration ceremony.

I realized that the hash approach created tension and an unpleasant atmosphere, so I decided to consult with my mentor and council alumni to contemplate the best approach to resolve the issue. After discussing with them, I decided to implement a softer and broader approach. I first attempted to understand their perspective of the issue, conversing with each art member to understand their situations. Afterwards, I apologized on behalf of the core council team for the harsh remarks and clarified that our critics were only meant to help improve their designs. Once the tension subsided, I attempted to bring my core council and art division members together to end all conflicts and rekindle their bonds.

Following up this event, I tried spending more time with the arts division. I used my knowledge to teach them how to use photoshop and inspire them with some design ideas. Not only did I invest my time acting as a mentor, I wanted them to feel comfortable as a member of the student council. As months passed by, I felt proud as I saw their designs and work ethic gradually improve. Moreover, their relationships with other divisions got better as they were able to establish positive work relations.

I discovered that being a leader involves more than just being able to direct and instruct. Being a successful leader means having the flexibility to offer both counsel and assistance through inspiration and motivation. A great leader should also attempt to foster a positive atmosphere by getting to know their peers, forging bonds of solidarity with each individual, and gradually gaining their trust.