***Describe how your experiences, perspectives, talents, and/or your involvement in leadership activities (at your school, job, community, or within your family) will help you to make an impact both in and out of the classroom while enrolled at UT. (250 – 300 words)***

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, I found an event poster really underwhelming, so I gave the arts division a barrage of criticism, forcing them to do a full revision. Consequently, the art division was devastated and grew bitter. Even several were planning to leave the council before the inaugural ceremony.

I realized that my hard approach created an unpleasant atmosphere, so I apologized and decided to implement a different approach. I tried spending more time with them, using my knowledge on photoshop to progressively teach them and inspire them. Not only did I invest my time acting as a mentor, I also wanted them to feel comfortable as a vital part of the student council. As months passed by, I felt proud as I saw their designs and work ethic gradually improve. This approach was much more effective because the council members appear more motivated and enthusiastic about their work.

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 wise counsel and psychological 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.

I’ll put this learned knowledge into practice at UT by attempting to create a healthy and enthusiastic environment in the classroom and connecting peers into a mutually beneficial network. I will also develop my previously acquired mentoring skills by giving free tutoring to underprivileged students through the Code Orange organization, giving a positive impact to the people around me.