**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.**

“Join the Technovation Girls competition, work in teams to design a mobile app to solve a problem in your community”, uttered the zoom host.

Wanting to challenge myself and seeing where I stand with my current skill set of coding which includes the basics of python and visual programming, I persuaded my best friends to join me. Being one of the youngest participants in the Technovation Girls competition senior division, my group lacked both coding and business knowledge. Despite the uncertainty from our lack of skills, I chose to not let this deter us and be more optimistic.

First, I initiated discussions about potential problems and solutions, and after extensive research, we took upon water issues. The reason was the alarming statistics about the urgency of this issue that were widely publicised in the news. In order to guide the designs of the app, I initiated the development of a paper prototype to set clear expectations for the outcome.

However, after a few group sessions, I came to the conclusion that our work ethic was ineffective because the deadline was drawing near and we were getting nothing done. Therefore, I delegated tasks into the app development and business team. As me and Felicia took computer science classes, the coding part became our main responsibility. As Nicole’s particularly good at finance and Teresa has a solid writing background, the business plan became their main responsibility.

Frequently, I would also hype our group chat to ensure effective communication while monitoring the progress. I also offered help to my teammates and urged them for feedback on the app and business plan.

After numerous never-ending meetings, our efforts paid off when we got the “favourite app” recognition and advanced to the global semi-final round.

Through this competition, I learnt that effective leadership requires me to be able to think critically and comprehend the strengths and weaknesses of each team member in order to delegate tasks effectively.

These qualities have shaped me into a creative thinker who can have an open mind and make wiser decisions to produce novel and effective solutions. With these newly acquired skills, I'll be better able to set clear expectations, demonstrate confidence in the team to bring out the best in each member, and get the best work ethic possible when I take on more responsibility for group projects in the future.