**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.**

Clicking on the ‘join meeting’ button, sigh, yet another zoom meeting to attend. “Join Techovation Girls’s competition, work in teams to design a mobile app to solve a problem in your community”, uttered the zoom host.

Without much thought, 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.

Upon the announcement of the competition’s expected outcome of a business plan and an app prototype, we felt intimidated. However, despite the initial intimidation and 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 decided to take upon water issues. The reason behind this was the alarming statistics about the urgency of this issue that were widely publicised in the news. Next, I delegated tasks into the app development and business team,  keeping in mind that some of us had taken computer science courses that were more relevant to the app development.

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. Not only that, but I must also show empathy by actively listening to their problems rather than ignoring them.

If I hadn't taken the initiative, we may still be complaining about our lack of skills instead of improving them and completing the tasks. I guess joining that zoom meeting and impulsively joining the competition was the right choice after all.