1. Everyone belongs to many different communities and/or groups defined by (among other things) shared geography, religion, ethnicity, income, cuisine, interest, race, ideology, or intellectual heritage. Choose one of the communities to which you belong, and describe that community and your place within it. Max 300

The engineering community is defined not just by our passion for design and innovation, but also by our shared persistence in finding solutions in the face of constant problems. I knew the former, but I discovered the latter the hard way.

As the people in Kei Island do not have a stable source of electricity, as the sun sets, they are haunted with darkness. Empathizing with them, I gathered three of my friends to create solar-powered street lights for Kei Island - each of us taking up roles based on our strengths. Having some experience with CAD, I took up the responsibility of designing the device’s chassis. After 3d-printing the model, I triple-checked it for any defects, and sprinkled water onto it to ensure that the circuitry remained dry. Everything seemed fine, so we set-up the device at a nearby park.

However, the prototype’s circuits were fried the next day because I failed to consider one thing: the device’s plastic material has a low melting point! Being under the sun deformed the chassis, creating gaps, resulting in one fried circuit after a heavy rain.

I wondered what to say to my team.

I had the choice to conceal my mistake, but my conscience refrained me from breaking my teammates’ trust.

I apologized to my team, admitting my mistake. Surprisingly, they’re alright with it and, instead, gave me suggestions on how to make it weather-proof.

Through my experiences, I have come to realize the importance of honesty, trust, and collaboration in this field. I have learned that mistakes are a natural part of the learning process and that it is important to address them, learn from them, and work together to move forward. I aspire to be a leader in this community, cultivating integrity, accountability, and innovation to foster an environment of openness.