Being born in India (the country of my heritage), lived in Singapore (the foundation of my childhood), and now residing in Houston (the stepping-stone of my future), has exposed me to various perspectives and unique standpoints, but, unexpectedly, some of my most transformative experiences have been in my Taekwondo journey.

A few months after I joined my Taekwondo school, I was struggling with balance and technique in a basic sequence of moves. While other senior instructors merely advised repetition, it was Master Blazek who recognized my struggle and approached me with valuable insghts.

Noticing I was turning my waist too much during my kicks, he devised a creative routine. He asked me to kick a foam helmet that he tossed into the air. By throwing it to intentionally exploit my tendency to over-rotate, this exercise helped rewire my muscle-memory and significantly improve my balance. I later went on to win a Gold Medal in the International Open Taekanagwon Poomsae Championships, a testament to the profound impact of Master Blazek's teachings.

Two years later, as I earned my first black belt, Master Blazek offered me a unique opportunity to become a junior-instructor over my peers. I eagerly accepted, excited to pass on the technical knowledge and experiences I had gained under his guidance.

In one of my early teaching sessions, I observed a student, Yash, struggling with his taekwondo forms. He executed the sequence of moves with a lack of strength which was sure to reduce his competition scores where "expression of power" is awarded points. I saw my initial state of unaware inaccuracies in Yash’s attempts, but at this same moment I also saw an old foam helmet in the corner, inspiring a creative teaching exercise.

Holding the helmet in a loose grip, I encouraged Yash to punch it out of my hands. He started with lazy taps, but the novelty of knocking the helmet away and watching me retrieve it unlocked a new excitement in him. Gradually, he started to fling the helmet across the room. Asking him now to re-do the initial sequence, but with the addition of his fresh power, the immediate results were undeniable, each move now infused with a newfound vigor of force and energy.

It’s mentoring and leadership opportunities like these that have transformed me into an interpersonal leader.

Master Blazek’s technical expertise, wisdom, and genuine care have shaped my journey to become a "Master Goyal" not just in the dojang, but in global communities that solve pressing issues.

Sharing my knowledge and skills with Yash and other peers in Taekwondo, Debate, Robotics, Projects, and more have enriched my ability to be a changemaking leader.

These perspectives as a selfless mentor and effective leader beckon me to carry forward a legacy of learning, empowerment, and application as I inspire my peers and myself to tackle extraordinary challenges together. This is meaningful to me because no matter which country, activity, or position I am in, I will find a path to broader lessons and vital impacts for my communities, mentors, peers, and I.

The Roomba’s utility, a symbol of hardware-software synergy, inspired my journey to create a home-cleaning robot using robotics-kits parts. Through iterations of broken parts and programming glitches, I realized the need for a deeper education in engineering and computer science. Embracing 3D printing, exploring Raspberry Pi’s, and producing custom-AI, I soon designed various new household gadgets.

However, my ambitions now extend to pioneering innovations with global transformative potential. I want to create tools, robots, software, and discoveries that benefit others. To achieve this, I must, again, advance my skills and knowledge.

In this endeavor, studying to channel resources through real-world missions which wield the potential to generate tangible and lasting impacts beckons me. This approach represents my aspirations of combining technical knowledge in global issues. Studying mechanical engineering and computer science in college, I aim to create a Roomba for the world's future.

* Ronald Reagan was a principled *leader* committed to his values. Our values are often products of our personal experiences and closest influences. Think about your most core values and how they define you as a leader, friend, son/daughter, American, etc. Share three values that are fundamental to who you are and for what you stand. Why are each of these values so central to your world view? Have there been people in your life or experiences that instilled these values in you? (750 words or less)
  + Open mind
    - Many cultures
  + Work with ambition - give 100% quality to anything
  + Analyze with empathy
    - Any situation, whether a person or an engineering
  + Sharing all my knowledge
  + Balance (exploring all areas) - relates to excellence in everything
  + Leadership, drive, integrity, citizenship, individual liberty, economic opportunity, global democracy and national pride

Just as a well-rounded individual is better equipped to face the complexities of the world, a balanced leader can effectively navigate challenges and inspire others to reach their full potential.

* Intro
  + Quote from reagan
* Open mind
  + Comes from my experience of living in India, Singapore, and USA
  + Aware of how people’s backgrounds impact their opportunities and identities
  + Not only am I culturally aware by having this open mind, but I am open to challenges.
  + I enjoy having my preconceived notions challenged so I can reevaluate myself and improve
  + I see my opinions and beliefs as akin to an initial strategy in a chess game. I love playing chess, so I want a challenge! Come counter my logic and defeat my plans. If my tactics are foiled, I don’t stubbornly adhere to the same approach. Instead, I adapt, learning from the experience and altering my strategy based on newfound insights. Likewise, when it comes to opinions and beliefs, I don’t doggedly cling to them if they’re challenged. I embrace the opportunity to learn, eagerly seeking to understand your alternative viewpoint and incorporate a new perspective into my thinking.
* Expertise in all areas
  + Not only do I keep exploring my STEM subjects, but I compete in debate to refine my communication skills, compete in Taekwondo, swimming, and soccer to stay healthy, and develop artistically through drawing and theater.
  + In this way, I take advantage of being an interdisciplinary student than can be prepared for an ever-connected and multi-faceted world.
* Open to share my skills and knowledge
  + I am passionate to give my knowledge to others
  + This is why I volunteer for competitions, teaching, and outreach.
* Conclusion
  + How these 3 help me be a leader and a benefactor to society
  + I am loyal to these values; they define all my actions and intentions.
  + Tie back to the introduction hook

Ronald Reagan teaches that "the greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things; he is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things." This insight underscores the importance of rallying others towards positive change. In my own journey, I've found that rallying others requires a leader to embody authenticity, principled conduct, and a steadfast commitment to clear values. In this way, I represent my core values of openness, exploration, and collaboration in all my daily intentions, decisions, and actions.

Openness is a value that stems from my experience of living in India, Singapore, and the USA. Being exposed to these vastly different cultures, languages, and lifestyles, I learned to celebrate the differences that make us unique, and understand those who are different from me. With this, I am eager to be challenged on my assumptions and beliefs. I see my opinions and beliefs akin to an initial strategy in a chess game. I love playing chess, so I want a challenge! I constantly look for counters to my logic and weaknesses in my plans. If my tactics are foiled, I don’t stubbornly adhere to the same approach. Instead, I adapt, learning from the experience and altering my strategy based on newfound insights. Likewise, when it comes to opinions and beliefs, I don’t doggedly cling to them if they’re challenged. I embrace the opportunity to learn, eagerly seeking to understand alternative viewpoints and incorporate a new perspective into my thinking. This value of openness allows me to grow as a person and a leader as I constantly seek to improve myself and broaden my horizons.

Building on this foundation of openness, exploration is another cornerstone of my character. I am driven by a quest for knowledge and mastery across diverse disciplines. For example, although my main passion is robotics, I compete in debate to hone my communication and critical thinking skills (2nd-ranked extemporaneous speaker in Texas), compete in Taekwondo to maintain my physical health (Worldwide Taekanagwon Open Poomsae Championships Gold Medalist), and develop artistically through theater (highest rating at Texans’ Thespian Festival). In this way, I strive to be an interdisciplinary student that can thrive in an ever-connected and multi-faceted world. By mastering different skills and fields, I become a more versatile, adaptable, and creative problem-solver. Many of my proudest accomplishments stem from leveraging this diverse blend of abilities. For instance, my Pedal Power community project— a stationary bicycle that charges one’s electronic devices through their own pedaling —required the fusion of scientific concepts, engineering skills, artistic design, computer modeling, persuasive communication, and relationship-building that brought the project to fruition. This project demonstrates the power in tackling substantial challenges through a synthesis of interdisciplinary skill sets resulting from the value of exploration and excellence that pushes me to excel in all areas.

Collaboration is the third pillar of my ethos, driven by a deep-seated desire to not only work with others to achieve big goals, but to also give back to our community by making a positive impact. I am not content with just acquiring knowledge and skills for myself; I want to share them with others and help them grow as well. This is because I am grateful for the inspiring education I have received and I admire the power to inspire others similarly. Additionally, as a competitive student, I have been thankful for all the competitions I have been able to participate in. Amongst these events, none of them ran without volunteers, meaning that my accolades, skills, and experiences were built upon the gracious selflessness of other volunteers. From this, I have a calling to continue their impacts by volunteering in competitions, ensuring that any other students will have the opportunity of smooth, fair, and constructive competitions. From these desires, I have amassed more than 300 volunteer hours performed for various service activities. \_\_This value of collaboration motivates me to share my skills and knowledge with others and to empower others to pursue their passions, overcome their challenges, and contribute to society.

These values—openness, exploration, and collaboration—form the bedrock of my leadership philosophy. Guided by these principles, I aspire to inspire others to achieve greatness and contribute to shared goals. As Reagan eloquently stated, the true measure of leadership lies in the ability to mobilize collective action toward a common purpose. By steadfastly adhering to my core values and continually expanding my horizons, I am confident in my ability to galvanize others in pursuit of positive change.

\_\_In addition to these examples of volunteering collaboration, I also enjoy spending significant amounts of time maintaining my service projects. For example, I invented the Robust Adaptive Network, a system of drones and rovers that aim to save lives in natural disasters. I secured thousands of dollars of resources for the project along with support from the Mayor of Houston and continue to develop RAN with a team of students that use this project as an education exploration.