

# Leadership Statement

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I believe good leadership would unify the people in the same group towards the same ambitious goal. It plays a critical role in successfully running a research group and making everyone in the group feel comfortable and motivated.

The most impressive leadership experience for me was when I was a class president in senior high school for two years. I was elected by my 60 classmates and school teachers in the second year of senior high school (China's senior high schools have three years). However, being a class president is not an easy job, especially for my "elite" class founded for Gaokao (a country-wide college entrance exam in China, happening immediately after graduating from senior high school). A lot of smart and diligent students are in my class; they do not want to be involved in class management stuff, but just want to study for Gaokao. Thus, a significant portion of my time was spent on collecting each one's opinions for the course and teachers, communicating with teachers about the potential improvement of the courses and teaching.

Things began changing near the end of the first semester after I became the class president. There was an optional school-wide choir competition, which required each participant class to prepare the choir within one month. I persuaded my classmates and class teachers to join the competition. We practiced for one month as a relaxation of all-day study. Our classmates recall that they were really happy these days when working towards the same goal that is irrelevant to study. After that, I continued organizing and mobilizing students to join some non-study activities. The most impressive one is that we went hiking for 20 miles at the beginning of last year before Gaokao. We walked for almost the whole day and slept well at night (we are in a boarding school). At the beginning of the next day, I felt everyone was full of energy and confidence for the Gaokao.

Most importantly, students in the class begin helping and caring about each other. We had mutual-help groups for specific subjects. We had weekly hang-outs and ordered takeaways secretly (even though it is banned in our boarding school) during weekends. These activities are mostly discussed when my classmates recall high school life. I am glad that I helped build a firmly-connected class. Our class ranked first out of the whole school during the Gaokao.

During my PhD, I ran my research lab's group meetings for two semesters and led multiple research projects with junior PhDs or undergraduates. Going forward, I would lend my leadership belief and experience to building an inclusive and collaborative research group.