**What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?**

Annoyance, distaste, and ununited- those were our feelings every Friday at 2:30 pm. It was our school’s weekly student-teacher games event. What was meant to strengthen our relationship turned out to be the opposite: only about half of the students showed up, while the rest left to enjoy their weekend 45 minutes early.

The teachers would set up games and have us form groups to compete by class. It was a good concept, but the games were too cheesy and childish for us. After years of this, I was fed up. As the student council’s VP, I wanted to make a change for the better; something that would really strengthen the student–teacher relationship. So, I voiced my concerns to the student council. With the students attendance records and a school-wide survey of the weekly event, I finally received the school’s approval for reforming this event.

Empathizing with the student body came first: surveys and interviews were done to gain insights on the most appropriate activities that could accomplish the event’s goals. Identifying the problem came next once the data was collected: sports, arts, culinary, and trivial games (Jenga, Twister, etc.) were the most popular activities preferred by both students and teachers. Too many activity options for a 45-minute event were not practical. The student council and I need to brainstorm for the best solution: after simulating endless scenarios, we proposed a full-day “Games Day” before mid-semester break instead of weekly events. This event comprised of a “Harry Potter” style “house” competition and point system plus “winner takes all” incentive to build excitement and camaraderie. Google form was used to keep track of students’ activities and attendance.

As I nervously inquire the stakeholders’ response, the reformed student–teacher event received positive reviews; even the school principal agreed to make this a permanent new tradition. A strong togetherness started to form from the students’ and teachers’ competitive spirit throughout the day. Who would’ve thought that the scientific problem solving approach I learned in my Science classes could be applied to making my school a more fun and unified environment.

Hi! It was fun to read this essay; you clearly knew the angle you’re going for. the story and how it answered the prompt. I think your language skills are great as well, there were minimal spelling or grammar errors. It’s great that you’re incorporating scientific problem solving into the solution you came up with to help your community. That being said, I feel like there are a few ways you could make your intentions more clear.

First, the scientific problem solving approach reflection on the conclusion could have been mentioned a bit earlier in the introduction. While it’s great to identify your methods, it felt a bit disconnected with the rest of your essay. From my understanding, the previous paragraphs leveraged emotions such as mentioning how you felt, then how you empathized with the student body, but including scientific elements in your reflection affects the tone of the essay.

Second, I’d love it if you could discuss a bit more about the student-teacher relationship you’re trying to strengthen. I’m well aware that the word limit could be frustrating, but depending on how concise you write, you could cut a bit of the second paragraph and modify the explanation on the survey, interview, and data collection process. Since this essay is meant to show how much you care about your community and improving inter-personal relations, it’s fine not to discuss scientific problem solving in detail, As I mentioned in the comments, I’m unsure how the house competition affects the student-teacher relation. A full day of games sounds like great bonding for the students, but does not explain how you strengthened relations with teachers.

I’m glad that there are a lot of things about yourself and your strengths as a leader in the school, but keep in mind that there are other essays where you can capitalize on your strengths. Focusing on either empathy or rational decision making as your response to this prompt would make your prompt clearer.