**Prompt #7**

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

Annoyance, distaste, and disunited were the feelings I felt every Friday at 2:30 pm. It was our school’s weekly games event. The school’s intentions were good: they wanted the students to have fun and strengthen our sense of togetherness, except for the fact that the games they perceived as fun and community-building were irrelevant to us (due to generation gap). Consequently, the events became too cheesy and half of us skipped altogether. Seeing this continue each week broke my heart. So, I decided to roll up my sleeves and reform the event.

As the student council’s VP, I was eager to make games day better for both the students and the school. I voiced my concerns to fellow council members, the teachers, and the school directors that, under the current condition, the events would end up being counterproductive. I even presented the event’s feedback surveys and collected attendance data to strengthen my argument and convince the school. After initially ignoring my concerns, they eventually agreed and put the student council in charge of reforming the event.

First, I proposed the modified version of science’s problem solving steps: Empathy, Define, Brainstorm, Prototype, and Testing.

In the Empathy step, we distributed insight-gathering surveys to determine the kinds of activities students find attractive, which were much more diverse than expected: sports, arts, culinary, and trivial games (Jenga, Twister, etc). As one problem is solved (the activities), however, another emerged (fitting all activities within 45 minutes). All ten of us generated and simulated different scenarios from activities and scheduling until we came across this idea: scrap everything, make it a full day event, and incorporate “Harry Potter” style house system to promote competition and camaraderie. On D-day, Google Form was used to track student attendances and feedbacks to validate our reformed event.

As I nervously collected the students’ responses, the reformed games day received positive reviews. I’m glad I pushed through in making what I desired, real. Since then, a strong sense of togetherness started to form, and the ten of us also gained valuable lessons: problem solving, better teamwork, and delegation.

Hi Octavio!

I think your experience directly answers how you’ve contributed in making your school a better place. You didn’t just keep silent, but you decided to do something about the school’s weekly game event – and your hard work really resulted in something.

Overall, I think this is great already.

I wish you all the best!