1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time.

The student body typically awaited the month of March to fulfill their childhood fairytale dreams, this year’s students were perturbed with the thoughts of driving in their ball-gowns through the KFC parking lot. Known as the most impecunious class in school’s history, it seemed rather far-fetched for my class to even consider hosting a decent banquet.

As an elected member of the banquet committee, I had deemed it crystal clear that the first step should be to raise more money. I admit I originally perceived it as a much simpler task: delegate tasks to my classmates for fundraising.

However, it soon became apparent that not everyone aspired to achieve the same goal. Most complained about the idea of giving up their time to fundraise, which led to long meetings where I had to suggest ideas that some disagreed with. Though I preferred taking everyone’s opinions into account, I soon learnt that sometimes certain decisions need to be set to achieve our desired goals.

The next step ahead was to set appointments and make arrangements with potential vendors. Though my heart had beat rapidly at the thought of meeting all these vendors and negotiating prices for the first time without adult supervision, I had to put a formal smile on my face and learn to forge effective business deals.

Unfortunately, the many hurdles never seemed to cease. Upon presenting the ideas and plans towards my classmates, there was once again much dissent. I considered everyone’s ideas, but they seemed to constantly clash to the point that some of the committee members ended up disagreeing with one another, whom I then had to help reconcile. Once again, I had to remind myself that despite the fact that some may be left dissatisfied, it was impossible for me to please everyone, as the task needed to be accomplished.

Through all these hurdles, I was able to assure the student body that their magical night would soon approach. Though people had expected the banquet to be held in KFC, I’m sorry to say that I’ve failed their expectations. As one final act, my class was later able to donate a significant amount to the school administration, which was negatively impacted by COVID-19, due to the extra funds we had raised.

Hi Rachel,

I would never have imagined a banquet to be held in KFC – though now that I think of it that would be very interesting!

From what I read here, I see that as an elected member of the banquet committee that realizes the importance of fundraising, you encounter problems such as: getting people to be aspired to achieve the same goal as they are quite reluctant to commit and give their time, as well as the disagreement from people.

And to solve this, you realized that it’s impossible to please everyone.

I think telling this story, describing how you managed to solve this would draw attention to your leadership and characteristic.

To do this, I think there are a few things that you need to elaborate and describe with more words.

A few suggestions that I have would be – after pointing out the problem, describe how you address the issues:

1. What did you do make them willing to give their time? Or not, did you compromise anything or take any of their consideration so that they won’t have to go through long meetings and hours?
2. What were the disagreements that they have?
3. How did you address these disagreements?
4. What were their ideas and after everything, you mentioned that you realized that it’s impossible to please everyone – what did you do here? How did you choose some and left some?

I think the above ideas would be good to be taken into consideration, and act as the bridge to how the magical night turned out. This would portray how you handled the situation, the decisions you took and essentially, your leadership skill.

On another note, I would suggest to cut the paragraph that I highlighted yellow as I think that acts as a different problem. So I think you could just focus on how you address the issues and if the paragraph highlighted yellow is relevant to that – just mention it very briefly.

All the best, Rachel! ☺