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

Aftering being part of the school’s student council and community for half a decade, I had begun to get a better understanding of how the procedures work around the school, as well as the expectations of the students. For many years, our school has been planning our service events for us, which weren’t that bad, except that they could have been better if the students were more involved in the planning stage. The same goes for the students though who choose to complain instead of taking action.

As a result, I decided to draft up a plan called the “Service Exploration Club”. This firstly began as a way for students to become more involved in developing their own personal service projects, such as but not limited to tutoring students, creating student-led organizations or developing a campaign. At first, the club went through a lot of board meetings and administrative discussions. I sent back and forth almost 50 emails, but the club eventually got the green light, which was history in the making since it was the first student initiated club to be approved by the school.

The club started off with only myself, but slowly transformed into a club that has been integrated into part of the school’s department, where we’ve helped to develop programs in accordance to our curriculum’s service requirements and our school’s humanistic philosophy. In our first year, we now have more than 20 participants spanning from all grade levels, where we have been able to create joint service events with the school. Our events have included meet and greets with various student-led organizations around the city, English tutoring services for less fortunate students, and development of campaigns related to mental health. This decreasing gap between our two parties has now proved successful in its first year, and it plans to get smaller for the foreseeable future.

This change finally allowed students to have a platform to contribute in the planning service events with the school, while also allowing the students the help to expand on their own personal service ideas. On the other hand, the school finally now has a way to teach the students the procedure to turn their ideas into their reality.