**Maximum of 350 words**

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.**

EduKita was my school’s student body’s first student led organization. While creating it was confusing enough, since we were walking into unfamiliar territory, we remained fixated on creating some new and fast. Within 3 days, we had participated in our first joint event with a public school on the outskirts of the city, but after that success we fell into a hiatus. The desire to do more suddenly dwindled and seeing that I was not ready to let this organization die out so quickly, I proposed that the organization adopt a voluntary project based system. It took many long talks and discussions, because not everyone understood where I was going with the idea, but I simply asked for 1 month to prove my case and the race began.

Through the trial period, I changed how we handled meetings. I became the moderator of our weekly meetings, and topped it off with also being the organization’s coordinator. I began first with alleviating the atmosphere by giving an awful joke here or there, and always started the meetings off with a positive smile. Once everyone was comfortable, I started inviting everyone one by one to speak and share their ideas. I would then ask around of what people taught and I would carry on the discussion until we eventually got an event plan.

During our hiatus where many of us were silent, suddenly each and every one of us was getting a shot at the spotlight. Once the awkward tension was broken, the light mood of the meetings motivated all of us to open up and with this team culture we soon were able to make large scale events and assign each other roles for the event planning based on our interests.

I began to finally see that leadership started off with making sure that everyone was comfortable first. Once that step was taken out of the way, the next step is to simply find a way to help people slowly express their ideas and provide a platform for them to explore it. I have watched friends, who used to silently sit in the corner, now have the inspiration to take up roles and contribute to the discussions. The idea worked and now we were back on track to expanding ourselves to greater heights.

Words: 382 (rough draft)