*Everyone belongs to many different communities and/or groups defined by (among other things) shared geography, religion, ethnicity, income, cuisine, interest, race, ideology, or intellectual heritage. Choose one of the communities to which you belong, and describe that community and your place within it. \* Min: 100 / Max: 300*

Lucas was welding the chassis, Albert was building a quick-shift powertrain, and I was porting the cylinder head. These were the things the mechanics from Engine+ - an auto-repair shop - and I were doing on weekends, building and fixing cars.

Despite their rough exterior, Lucas, Albert, and the others were friendly. In our first meeting, the 12-year-old me was intimidated when my dad brought me here to learn about cars. To ensure I feel comfortable, they cracked jokes, taught me the engine’s basics, and showed me how engine components work firsthand. These led me to want to learn more, resulting in my 4 days-a-week visit to Engine+.

After years of learning, I finally became their apprentice last year and joined their race car team for the annual ISSOM event. The team has six divisions, and I was in the engine division. With limited budgets, the development was challenging, but we made things work and custom-made everything ourselves.

Seven weeks in, Lucas’s division didn’t make the chassis stiff enough and failed to maintain precise control over the suspension geometry, leading to a big argument. As the youngest, I felt that it’s not my place to butt into the argument. My parents taught me to keep cool-headed when there’s disagreement with someone. Thus, despite panicking, I kept my cool and found ways to make the chassis stiffer without adding much weight. Seeing this, Lucas and Albert set aside their arguments and the tension quickly loosened as the team focused on my solution.

In a team, each member has his/her own role. At Engine+, I finally discovered what my role is in collaborative settings. I always keep my calm, so my role is the peacemaker. I will always hold this revelation with me, and continue to nurture this quality for my future endeavors.