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.