Ravi UC Essay Draft

**Prompt #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.***

Radiation intensity, module temperature, and module orientation and tilt angle: these are several factors affecting solar panels’ performance. Indeed, these seem logical right now, but they’re something that my school research project teammates and I learned the hard way thanks to our lack of communications.

Initially, we had problems resolving our research topic. We were too hardheaded and fixated on our own ideas that we shot down each other’s ideas without clear reasons forcing us into an impasse. We’re like three wild dogs trying to claim their territory in the same spot. I knew we need to resolve this before moving forward.

“The Art of People” and “How Habits Work” taught me the importance of effective communication: knowing when to listen, interrupt, and lead group discussions. They reveal that our communications and teamwork were poor. There were no leadership, no understanding, no consistency, and, eventually, no clear directions. Someone need to be decisive and step up: I did.

The way our discussions proceed was full of uncertainty. We answered questions with another question (unconfidently) creating confusion and us biting each other’s head off due to annoyance. In response, I initiated a rule: answer questions with statements. Doing so avoided unnecessary confusion, thus, leading to a clearer direction. We soon came up with a unified decision: External Factors Affecting Solar Panels’ Performance.

After further investigation, we narrowed down three critical factors affecting solar panels performances. However, what’s next? I wanted to ensure that this cohesiveness stays on. So, I took notes of everyone’s strengths and weaknesses, and then delegated the appropriate tasks. This built our teamwork as each of us became the lead to our individual tasks, as well as instilled confidence to finish the project on time.

Our journey was definitely challenging. But it was also a revelation on how a firm figure is able to progress their team forward, through times of concern or contentment, by knowing how to maintain a clear set of objectives.

With that, I’ve learned how to become a better leader by embracing ownership of responsibilities. Therefore, I can achieve progression without authoritarianism.