1. Start by describing “a time” you faced some type of problem in a group
2. Explain how you handled it (the steps you took and your inspiration) and felt
3. Share why you think you were effective and why
4. Reflect on what you learned about yourself
5. Conclude with why your leadership style or ability will help you in future goals (personal and academic.)

Year: 2017. Date: October 1. Time: 2:00 PM. The last bell rang and I made my way to my programming class. I sat down with both my programming and physics teachers with a request to start a robotics team. I had found a video online of a high school robotics team and was riveted by the autonomous movements of the wheels and claw. I wanted in. After months of planning, the robotics team finally came to fruition. Weeks of advertising and rudimentary fundraising had finally paid off because we were having our first meeting this coming Friday. Or so I thought. A resounding five people showed up at the meeting. After saving over announcements and activities fairs the robotics team began to expand. The problem of controlling the team soon became a problem. As the captain, I was responsible for knowing when to let other lead, compromising, hearing everyone’s voice, teaching and encouraging the team, signing up for tournaments, scouting for alliance teams, fundraising, advertising for more members, and keeping the team on task.

After getting over my initial reservations of having to lead such a large team, making school-wide announcements and speaking in front of the whole robotics team became easier with every passing day. Since most of the team didn’t have much building or programming experience I had to quickly learn skills for both then teach the others. From this experience, I learned that I won’t always have all the answers and I don’t need to have all the answers. I have to have humility and put my ego aside and let other more knowledgeable people, even though I’m the captain. This way, I was able to better myself and the team as a whole. I enforced an open, judgment-free zone to ensure the members felt safe and welcome. This was effective because the student was able to communicate, work, and learn from each other easily. I also learned the importance of time management and sharing the workload. I’m astonished by the commitment and the tremendous technical knowledge of the team as a whole (myself included) has gained from the experience.