

College Admission Essay

The silence was the first thing that I observed when the robot refused to move. My colleagues gazed at the jumble of wires on the laboratory bench, expecting somebody to say something. When the deadline clock kept on reducing, I also understood that it does not matter which person has the loudest voice; it matters who gets up in a room where everyone is in doubt.

The competition in robotics was the initial occasion when I had to solve a problem without an evident answer. In our design, we failed in tests several times, and feelings of disappointment substituted trust. Wilhelm and I had been thoroughly obedient to orders, but the system was uncooperative. At that time, it would have been easy to quit. Instead, I recommended that we take a break and start with what we knew as opposed to what we thought.

I managed to fix the bug step by step as the others re-examined the mechanical design. I posed questions rather than blamed and urged all the people to submit ideas, including those that were unclear. After trial, error, and teamwork, we found a defect in the sensor calibration that had not been noticed before. By the time the robot moved, it was not only a technical success but also a demonstration that a bit of persistence and cooperation is more important than perfection.

This experience changed my approach to challenges. I do not look at setbacks as failures anymore, but as data; data that explains how to make a next attempt. This attitude was also reflected in my schoolwork, where I began approaching challenging topics with patience instead of fear, and in group work, where I realized it was better to listen and then lead.

Today, I am a person who likes to work in a problem-solving atmosphere and appreciates self-improvement through work. College is a continuation of that journey. I am passionate about embarking on intense coursework, working with different minds, and putting the acquired

knowledge into real-life challenges. As I did in that silent lab, I am willing to take a step forward--inquisitive, strong, and amenable to constructing something more.