VEX changed my life. Before having participated in VEX, I had few skills under my belt and my prospects for a successful future seemed dim. Then, it happened. VEX entered my life.

My first experience with VEX occurred at the Summer Stretch program at the University of Washington. The robot my team and I designed picked up small balls and put them in small containers. We didn’t win, but we did have a blast.

The following year, my school produced a VEX team. Obviously, I wanted to participate. After spending only two to three weeks on VEX, my team was a member of the 5th place alliance at the nearby regional. Upon attending Worlds about two months afterwards, we were the 8th place alliance captain. This achievement was impressive. I felt accomplished for once.

The following year, I became a co-captain of our team. Working vigorously throughout the season, VEX became my world. I had meaning. At the very first competition of the season, our team was in the first place alliance. Suddenly, I worked with even more clarity than ever before. Ever since, my whole outlook on life has only improved. Staying up to 12, working on VEX, has become a standard. My knowledge of science, mathematics, leadership, programming, and life has improved tenfold.

Now, our team is aiming for first at worlds. VEX robotics has caused me to strive and work harder for my hopes and dreams. Some may say I ***needed*** VEX. I agree.