**The Appeal of Vex**

by

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The biggest appeal of Vex robotics is not that it can be quickly assembled out of the box within a day, but that it has no limits to what can be built with it. The challenge to develop something different every time is what makes Vex such a great investment. Following Plato’s philosophy that “early education be a sort of amusement; you will then be better able to find the natural bent,” Vex Robotics competition is an amusing way to get interest in engineering. Engineering is all about developing solutions to problems. Vex Robotics challenges students to think of different designs to complete the same task. Trial and error of making a workable design teaches me how to be an engineer. My friend and I have built and torn apart our robot numerous times; every success is built on a failure. Even though many of our designs had issues, we are learning a 100 ways how not to build a robot, to paraphrase Edison. Will our robot win? In our minds, no matter where we place in competition, we will win. We win by building a working design. We win from our experience of creating our robot and by showing our school than an “Army of Two” can pave the way to an official robotics club/team at our school. Our first vex vehicle will be the promise of all that is to come as we learn from our experience and draw others from our school into the field of robotics.