Prior to VEX, I was a member of an FLL robotics team. At the time, I was there simply because my parents wanted me to do robotics. I had no interest in engineering, or even robotics, only to obey my parents.. Furthermore, I did nothing of significance. I was just the average member who did work when told to… nothing more, nothing less. I did this for three years, from sixth to eighth grade.

Then, in my first year of high school, I decided to join the VEX/FRC team at my school. While I was nothing more than a member there, the delight of working with VEX instead of Legos changed something in me. For the first time in three years, I thought about robotics outside of the team meetings. I thought about how to make innovative designs, running a myriad of ideas through my head all day. I’d finally found where my passion was.

However, after the world championships in April 2010, differences in the school team led to my departure. Still wanting to continue VEX, my friends and I started our own team. Being a captain of the team and reflecting back to sixth grade, a lot had changed. No longer was I forced by my parents to do this- I was self-motivated. No longer was I the passive member in the back, I led. Now, I have an extreme interest in engineering and robotics, and I’m thankful for VEX, as it was what changed me.