What started out as a hobby manifested into an obsession. I am addicted to robots.

It all started over three years ago.

My friend Claire suggested attending a Vex robotics meeting. I have to admit; at first I was a bit skeptical. How could a 7th grader build something as complex as a robot?

Luckily, I swallowed my fears and dove headfirst into the world of robotics.

I was placed on a team and was filled with enthusiasm. Unfortunately, I was faced with the unpleasant reality that I had no idea what to make or how to build a robot.

That was when I pushed up my sleeves and faced the task at hand. I sought inspiration everywhere: The insides of a folding door, television, toys and even sandwiches. I drew inspiration from everywhere!

Then my ideas took physical form. After it was all assembled the moment had come; the one I waited for and dreaded since the start. I held my breath. It sprung to life. It worked. The butterflies that had previously occupied my stomach vanished and I beamed with pride.

It was not always perfect of course. There were missteps along the way that I had to overcome. VEX Robotics was an excellent way for me to learn the design cycle and the thrill of constructing a product to fill a special function. These skills and achievements will stay with me through my academic career and beyond.