**Sarah Turk - Team 81M: Mystique**

**What VEX Means to Me**

VEX Robotics has helped to expand my knowledge of the STEM subject areas greatly, in addition to helping me form strong new friendships. I have wanted to join the VEX Robotics club for two years now, but it never worked out. This year though, I have been able to join the club and attend practices and tournaments. Now I am on a team of three, a very well working group, and perfectly sized, for building a robot together and all being involved while learning in the process.

I attend the STEM Academy in Downingtown PA; at the school the main focuses are: science, technology, engineering, and math. I joined this school because I aspire to have a career in the engineering pathways when I finish college. This is also another reason why I wanted to join VEX robotics. The STEM Academy is a school, which utilizes the International Baccalaureate program for junior and senior years. I plan to take the higher level engineering course in the IB. Partaking in VEX Robotics will help me both now and in the years to come, because I am learning important technical skills in addition to teamwork and building long-lasting friendships. Not only has VEX helped me prepare for my upcoming years in the IB, but in freshmen year I took physics and an engineering course. My background in these subject areas has helped prepare me for this competition year on a VEX team.

Word Count: 240