

# Vex - What Does It Mean To Me?

Vex Robotics, Toss Up, Where-Did-This-Screw-Come-From? There are many names for the one program that has captured my full interest. To me personally, the Vex Robotics program is what helped me find out who I am outside of the four walls of the classroom. It helped me find friends in people who I would normally never give a second glance at, especially the older students. Vex has helped me understand what I enjoy and want to be when I grow up, and I feel blessed to have been able to join the club at my school. Sure, there are some hard times, but those hard times are well worth it in the end when there is a working robot and smiling faces all around.

In addition to helping me explore career paths, Vex Robotics has taught me the concept of time. With deadlines that may seem far away, it honestly is not very much time when I think back on it, especially those times where I personally stayed up late to ensure that everything was ready to go. Although we, as a school, work in teams of three to four people each, not everyone can be to club on time, and each person has to work around each other's schedules, including coming in on Saturdays to finish the robot. Before robotics, a week seemed so long, since it was, you know, 168 hours! Well, a week is still 168 hours, but now time flies by so fast, and before I know it, competitions are creeping up on me and surprising me when I least expect it. One would think that since it happens so often, I would be used to it by now, but nope. Competitions still manage to get me off guard, since the concept of time is a weird one. Still, the Vex Robotics program has helped me be a bit more organized when it comes to time management.

Although there have been a few moments that arguing has come up, Vex Robotics has helped me make friends. Normally, I have trouble making friends so quickly, especially since I'm shy. Since I have joined the program, I have made friends with classmates and people I normally would not see, such as the high schoolers or the younger kids. Being on a team with these people helped me find my comfort zone and my own potential when I get out of my shell. In all honesty, the Vex Robotics program has helped me be a little more outgoing and helped me overcome a little bit of my anxiety. Not only has it helped me, but I've seen a few other friends and clubmates who started getting more involved with both the program and other activities outside of robotics. Sure, there have been times where there have been major disagreements, but when the day is over, we all still support each other, whether it be emotionally or physically. In summary, Vex Robotics has helped me in choosing a career path, time management, and making friends.