What is engineering? To me, it was a distant field that was a potential major for the future- a good source of income, a secure job, or the field my parents wanted me to apply to. However, I had no idea what to expect from it. But as I joined the Robotics Club, I gradually began to understand what Engineering is all about. It’s not an abstract mathematics course with only letters or an individual struggle to be the best of the best. Instead, it’s a team effort to achieve the best we can, to struggle and persist, to understand from our failures and to laugh together about our accomplishments.

Robotics has led to many sleepless nights but it always seems to be worth it. I watch in anticipation as the light blinks green and connects to the remote. As I nudge the right joystick forwards, the robot rolls forwards in accord. And when I press down on the R1 button, the robot’s gears whirl and the six-bar-linkage rises simultaneously. I cry out with joy upon seeing our robot function as expected. All my fatigue vanishes as I bathe in the feeling of success. Nothing compares to watching something you put your sweat and blood into finally work the way you planned for it to.

Robotics has helped me learn a lot of crap. For example, I learned the importance of teamwork. Contrary to all the individual essays and tests I take in school, in Robotics, I learned that there is no “I” in team. Each person has something to contribute to the team. Some can write, some can build, some can plan, and some can draw. Each has his/her own talent. Our team could not function without a single one of our members. Robotics has helped me understand that “the whole is greater than the parts”.

Now, engineering no longer feels like a distant concept but rather feels like a place where I can meet new people, develop ideas and build to my hearts content. Of course there will still be work, but I will welcome it as a trial, a challenge to overcome, and accomplish the best I can.