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VEX Robotics Essay Challenge

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Changed My Life

I am a junior at Firestone High School and have been a member of our Engineering Club since my freshman year. Our instructor, Mr. Dan Spak, told us that this club is for us to explore different branches of engineering. Last year in Club, four other engineering students and I decided to start working with VEX Robotics and participate in the competitions. We have worked all summer on our robot design with hopes of qualifying for the World Championship in, Anaheim, California.

Back when we formed our team, we never dreamed we would actually qualify for the State Championship; twice! So far we have earned awards for Excellence, Design, Tournament Finalists, and Programing Skills Champions.

When I started in Project Lead the Way and the Engineering Club, I had no idea what career I would pursue; I just knew that I wanted to do something in the engineering field. Participating in the VEX Robotic Challenge this year helped me decide that I would like to attend college to study Biomechanics, hopefully at Case Western Reserve University. VEX has made me realize that I truly enjoy working with robots to solve complex problems: whether related to design or programing. I also have never packed my car more effectively than when loading it up with repair parts. I see these competitions as an excellent way for students, contemplating a career in an engineering field, to explore the design process in a fun, yet educational way.