

Two-Thirds...Overruled.

By 98807C-Syntax Error

In Congress, representatives use a two thirds majority rule to make decisions. This governing tactic is kind of how our robotics team works. Out of the six members on our team, four of us are girls, hence the two thirds majority rule. To us, Girl Powered means trying new team roles, and encouraging everyone on our team to do their best, no matter what. We do those things everyday within our team. For example, Willow started out the year as a programmer, and has become one of our best builders. Abby started out the year as team captain, yet she seemed to be lacking a definite



2) *The mobile goal intake that Willow, Abby, and Jacob built.*

purpose, now she's one of our main builders, as well as our back-up driver. Annabelle is exploring the

principles of engineering and design and applying this to our engineering notebook. Alayna joined our team partway through the year, and we had no idea where her place was, or what her job would be. She's now being taught how to drive by our main driver, Kaiden, and later in the year they're going to partner drive together. She's also learning all the parts on and off the robot, and she's going to be extremely helpful keeping us organized. In our opinion, the differences in perspective don't change too much when it comes to the design of the robot, because we all have the same goal: to build the best robot possible. For us, at least, we take a vote if we don't agree. We also don't really feel it affects our team too much, because we all connect with each other in different ways, we're all friends, we all have things in common with each other. We do feel, however, that sometimes our diversity can help us succeed, because we all have different strengths, and different

personalities. Like Kaiden, Jacob,



1) *Our team, when we won the Judges award at Seattle Prep tournament. (From left to right) Annabelle Smith, Alayna Maldonado, Jacob Rtizke, Willow Baker, Abby Danko, and Kaiden Spoelstra.*

and Alayna are calmer under pressure, while Annabelle, Willow and Abby tend to over analyze the situation and may become stressed. This created balance though, because Kaiden, Jacob, and Alayna are able to calm down the rest of the team. In our opinion this helps us succeed because it helps us all stay calm.

With our team, we don't use gender as a deciding factor, and we've never let it be a determining trait. In reality, gender doesn't matter. We can all build the same robot, program the same autonomous, have the same strategy, go to the same schools, and have the same jobs. Our gender does not determine our success, neither does race, or anything that someone could potentially hold against you as different from them. In the end, gender doesn't matter, and shouldn't matter when it comes to learning and creating and pretty much anything else of the matter. Anyone is just as capable of doing a task as a member of the opposite sex is. Our team may be $\frac{2}{3}$ women, but that doesn't make a difference to the way we function as a team. Our team functions extremely well the way we are, and frankly, that wouldn't change depending on our genders, because we're all friends, and we all work together. That's all that matters. How we work as a team. Not our genders, not our race, how we treat each other and how we work as a team. Gender doesn't matter anymore. At least, not to us.



3) Abby working hard on our drive train.

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Team 98807C - Syntax Error from Wenatchee, WA

Abby Danko

Willow Baker

Kaiden Spoelstra

Annabelle Smith

Alayna Maldonado

Jacob Ritzke