

Girl Powered Essay

The internet defines the term “girl-powered” as a slogan that encourages and celebrates women’s empowerment, independence, confidence, and strength. I personally define it as keeping up with all the boys in my class and constantly raising the bar. My first year it was a little nerve-racking being one of two freshmen and the only girl in the class. I was placed in a group with three seniors. It felt like I was drowning a little bit. Like I didn’t really have a say in much and it didn’t really feel like I was part of the group. At the first tournament I attended we were asked a few questions about our robot, how it worked and why were some things set up the way they were. When answering I was cut off by my teammate, who then gave his description of the robot. When the judge came back he pointed out the fact that I had tried speaking, but had been overspoken. After that tournament, I told myself I was going to be more assertive because I was just as much a part of the group as they were. In class, I started to voice my opinion more, and eventually, they learned that I picked up on a lot of stuff they didn’t. Like mistakes made on the bot, ways to improve it, and even certain flaws of other bots, at tournaments, that helped us win.

I’m now in my sophomore year of high school, continuing to take robotics, and I’m still the only girl out of two entire classes. I have not made the same mistake of letting my teammates take over. I’ve developed a voice and I have made sure it does not go unheard. My team isn’t bothered by the fact that they have a girl on their team. At the beginning of the year, there was an attempt to assign roles, but we never really went with that because we’re a team. Having one person build, code, do the notebook, or create sketches isn’t really something we were interested in because it’s not as great as an experience as doing a little of everything. In middle school, I was required to take a Lego robotics class and had an amazing experience. I then took two STEM classes, participated in the Soap Box Derby Race, and took a drones class. My teacher at the time, Mr. Williams, was the one who pushed me to join robotics going into high school. He wanted all of his students to challenge themselves, push boundaries, and have fun while doing all that. He is my STEM role model because he made me go above and beyond with any project I was assigned. He has 100%, no doubt about it, helped shape me into the person I am today. I’m extremely grateful for all the awesome opportunities I’ve had in middle school that has helped me get to where I am in high school. I’d say being the only girl in my class hasn’t changed the experience at all. If you make a voice for yourself you will not go unnoticed.