

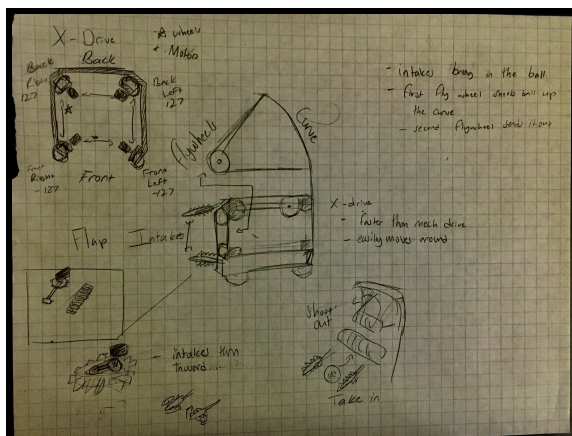
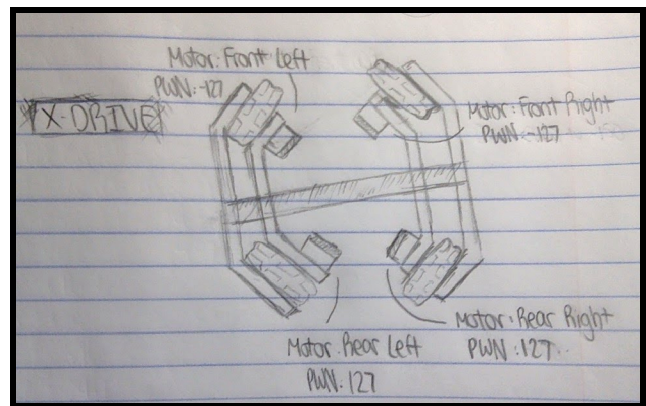
# Empowerment and Diversity in Robotics

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In the early 1990s, a US punk band by the name of Bikini Kill published a zine called “Girl Power.” Thirty years later this phrase has transformed into an entire movement. A movement centering around women’s strength, confidence, independence, and of course, empowerment. Influential women, such as Grace Hopper, developer of COBOL and inventor of the first computer compiler, and Malala Yousafzai, a female education activist and the youngest Nobel Prize laureate, are only a fraction of what the slogan represents. Riding on these powerful women's waves, we look forward to making the future Girl Powered!

First of all, our robotics club is open to everyone and anyone, planting the seed of diversity. There's also a lot of freedom, as we are allowed to pick what role we play, and due to the current situation, what online challenges we would like to work on. Every member is given the chance to put their 2 cents in and pitch ideas, such as robot designs and adjustments. For example, everyone on the team contributed to the rough robot design, made suggestions throughout the building process, participated in the decision matrix, and much more. This also serves as a way for the team to expose ourselves to and understand each other's positions and perspectives, and as people who have experienced different roles in a team, we understand the importance of broadening our horizons. Similarly to having diverse backgrounds, it allows us to approach tasks with a different point of view.



As stated previously, diversity in people leads to diversity in thought. Differing perspectives and backgrounds bring out new ideas and creativity, as well as a sense of inclusiveness amongst the team. When it comes to robotics, or really any activity that involves designing, having a diverse team is a great advantage. In fact, there are studies that prove.

diversity to enhance decision making and problem solving. One person's experience covers up another's blind spot and vice versa. We combine our independent knowledge and together, come to the best conclusion.

Needless to say, girl power and equality in general goes much further than just our robotics team. In the grand scheme of things, girl power is beneficial to both societies at large and individual people. The push to empower women and give more people the mic allows for new voices to be heard and beneficial, sometimes needed changes to be made. One example of such voices was the first ever TIME kid of the year, Gitanjali Rao.

She uses her knowledge of technology to tackle worldly issues, such as undrinkable water sources due to contamination and cyberbullying. All in all, empowerment boosts the self-esteem of individuals and benefits society, by encouraging people to step up and speak out unapologetically.



To sum it up, empowerment, diversity, and equality are extremely beneficial to robotics, individuals, and society in general. These attributes go a long way in creating an inclusive and more productive environment, where everyone has the chance to make waves and flourish. In other words, each and every person has potential to be great. Sometimes it just takes putting our differences aside and lifting each other up to let that greatness shine. Knowing this, we look forward to changing the world for the better, girl power style!