

# GIRL POWERED ESSAY

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When I hear the term “Girl Powered,” I think of taking a step forward and breaking the stereotypes. I imagine a team of not only girls, but boys as well. I imagine a team full of diversity and leadership. I imagine a team full of friendship and smiles. I imagine a team that is not afraid of taking risks. I imagine a team where the term “Girl Powered” does not exist, because the stereotypes do not reach them there. As soon as the girls get with their teammates, they do not have to be made fun of. They do not have to worry about being treated as if they know nothing and everyone is always ignoring their talent and accomplishments, because stereotypes cannot break the barriers that said team has created. I imagine “Girl Powered” as a term of peace and rest of not only the girls, but the term itself as well. Examples of girl STEM leaders include but are not limited to: Katherine Johnson, Augusta Ada King, Radia Perlman, etc. All our team, Atom Alliance, strictly follows this rule. We have four female workers and two male workers, and we all respect each other. We never make fun of each other, and we have no problem taking leadership in a situation and helping each other.



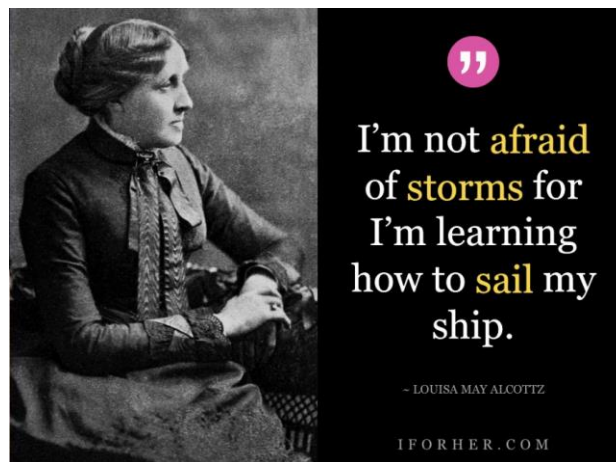
[Katherine Johnson \(NASA mathematician\) winning the Hubbard medal for her precise calculations. \(1918-2020\)](#)

Atom Alliance works hard to ensure that our Banks, AL STEM classrooms are places of unity, safety, and acceptance. We all show leadership and take the initiative when we need to. We inspire aspiring STEM students that being different is okay, and that you can break stereotypes if you try hard enough.



[Simone de Beauvoir \(1908-1986\) is a well-known feminist.](#)

Our team members are not afraid to take the initiative, that means when someone needs help or is absent, someone will fill in for them. Our team experiments with unfamiliar roles and sometimes even helps other teams. This proves how comfortable we are with each other and how confident we are in filling in for each other. We can learn a variety of skills this way and get to use it for future reference. For example, if me, a notebooker, is out a day, then one of my teammates would fill in for me. We can understand each other's thinking process better this way.



[Louisa May Alcott \(1832-1888\)](#)

All our different perspectives, thinking processes, qualities, and skills are what make us a team. If we did not think differently, then we would all have the same robots, reports, and I would not be writing this. There would be no STEM, no VEX, nothing special. So, to have a team with various perspectives on a variety of things makes us unique. It makes our robot unique. It makes our notebook unique. It makes our strategy unique. It makes everything unique. If we all thought the same, then we would not get together as well as we would because what attracts us is our preference in qualities, so if we thought the same about all qualities, we would think of each other as ourselves, which would get repetitive and boring. If we all thought the same, we would all have the same robot design, strategy, and opinions. If we all shared those traits, we would all get the same points and there would be no diversity in notebooks, which also whittles your chances of winning. The entire point of VEX is to express your creativity in unique ways and use your abilities as much as possible. If there is no uniqueness, there is no point.

Personally, my STEM role model is my teammate, Anicka. She is always the first to volunteer, she always helps us and takes control when needed, and she is a good friend, too. It is my first year in STEM and ever since I stepped into the building, the first thing I noticed was her duality. She can be fun, but also stern and assertive. Anicka is who I aspire to be in the future. She is always encouraging us to do our best and to get along. Anicka is the perfect role model for not only STEM, but also diversity.

## CREDITS

Alayna for composing essay

Mrs. Garrett for uploading and submitting essay