

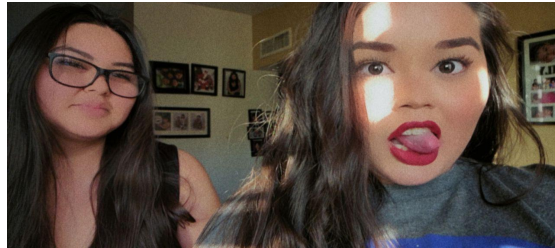


Dear Emily

Author: Alyssa Ocon

Team: 8787X

Eastwood High School at El Paso, TX



Dear Emily, my big sister,

Ever since I can remember you have been a big inspiration to me. All those times you would get mad at me for copying you, when in reality all I wanted was to be like you. There are not enough words to describe how much you have impacted my life. I used to believe that the STEM field was specifically targeted for boys only. When you joined robotics I was shocked since the stereotype that society made me see was that girls weren't able to be in this field. I went to the event you helped host "Girl Power" and remember thinking to myself "There are a lot of girls wanting to learn more about STEM" and now copying you again, I am presenting to the next generations. It's insane to me that once you graduated I would be going in and joining robotics, doing the same things you did like the engineering notebook and encouraging young girls that they are capable of anything they set their mind to. You showed me that equality for both genders can be in our future, and through this experience I have already met so many incredible people just by continuing and following this path to the engineering field.



If it wasn't for you I wouldn't have been in my team, 8787X, where I got to meet so many girls that shared the same mindset as I did. Where you weren't only a role model to me this season but as well as to my teammates. Not only are you considered a big sister to me but for many others too. Whenever I need you, you are always there for me, you taught me that no matter how hard it gets to always keep trying and moving forward. Everyday you keep encouraging me to do my best and try new things, which now I do in order to motivate my teammates. For instance, giving them guidance on how to work on the notebook, trying to learn how to build, seeing how others program, or even testing how we drive the robots. I have used everything that I learned from you, in order to be the big sister of the group, being there to uplift them from any challenges they face.



You taught me that diversity can build strong bonds and how with the diversity of each person on my team we have created a family. Having a bond that is indestructible and full of many perspectives can lead us to success since it shows us more ideas on how we can each improve whether it's ourselves or the robot design. We found strength in all our differences and embraced them throughout this season including our robot. Each part of our robot was made by all the brainstorming meetings we had with each other, where we talked about our advice to make a robot that is best fitting for this year's game "Tipping Point". In present times, my team and I have taken initiative to be more inclusive by having part in this year's "Girl Power" event and have had many fairs at school to promote robotics and the engineering endorsement to future generations.



To me "Girl Powered" has such a significant meaning, not only is this phrase specifically targeted to girls but to everybody who believes we should have equality for every perspective of life. It is needed in this world so both boys and girls have equal opportunities and to change society's norms. The way you have taught me to see the world is that anyone can do anything they set their minds to whether that's wanting to be in a field that is usually intended for boys or just wanting to be in the STEM endorsement. In my team we reflect in our approach to robotics this mindset of having diversity and making sure there is equality for everyone by being inclusive and being capable of finding our inner strengths. You are to me the definition of "Girl Power " because you are the first person in the family to break society's expectations, where you helped pave the way for not just me but many others to walk smoothly through to join the STEM community. As well as you were always there no matter how busy you were and you never fail to amaze me as you continue to work hard to get your engineering degree. I would just like to show how much I appreciate you since you have given me the world and everything you could in order to protect me from society and guide me to the path of success.

