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### Challenge Action Response

During high school I was a part of many clubs and organizations primarily focused on business. We have done a plethora of actions that range from community service to business competitions. For my senior year in high school I was a part of the team for an entrepreneurial business competition. The objective of the competition was to create a 10+ page business plan with a team of exactly 3 members and propose it to a panel of judge similar to the show Shark Tank for a grand prize. The competition required a rigorous enrollment process that could not be refunded or changed without disqualification. I managed to get 2 other individuals interested in competing with me.

Unfortunately, both of my teammates wouldn't be able to help me. One student was a foreign exchange student who had to leave midyear due to a family emergency and the other student broke his back while skiing during the winter break. This left me in quite a vulnerable position. After discussing the issue with my teacher and with the organization that hosted the competition; the best they could allow was for me to participate in the competition alone. I was pretty demoralized and felt like quitting the competition right then and there. However, my business teacher encouraged me to continue working on the business plan citing many successful entrepreneurs who also started by themselves. He also ensured that I wouldn't fail his class saying that this business plan would be a substitute for the final project in his class meaning I could use class time to work on the competition.

When it finally came time for the competition it was just me and my teacher. While the administration was more than happy to let the class go, the organization didn't allow anybody but those directly involved with the competition and the teachers. I had to make the same pitch

multiple times to different panels of judges as I moved up in the standings was already a shock to me. By the time I was in the finalist bracket I felt like I was flying high like Icarus. However just like the story of Icarus that dream would come crashing down. While I made it to the finalist bracket, I wouldn't win the grand prize which at the time was very disheartening. I remember being upset from the ordeal but my teacher was proud and in hindsight I am proud of my performance against teams of 3 people.