



What's Working Well

You have a unique and compelling story here! Your topic about building robots is strong, and I see a lot of potential for showcasing your intellectual curiosity and problem-solving skills.

What You Can Improve

- **Structure:** Most of your essay takes place when you were a young child, but readers want to know who you are today. We'll make room to add new content about how building robots has opened up new interests and hobbies for you more recently.
- **Theme:** While your topic is good, your main message about not letting failure hold you back is a familiar theme in admissions essays, and doesn't show us your learning process for improving your robots. Let's work on developing a stronger theme that reflects your curiosity and commitment to success.

Your Next Draft

I'm going to recommend that we condense some of your current draft, and add 2-3 paragraphs of new material. Below is an example outline that can guide you step-by-step as you revise. For your next draft, the most important section to work on will be **Section Two**.

- **Introduction:** You have a great intro already! I've added a few suggestions in the text below to help clarify a few details and make your opening more dynamic.
- **Section One:** Next, we can add just a few sentences to show what motivated you to fight. This will help establish what fascinated you about robotics; later in your essay, we'll show where this curiosity has led you more recently. Take a look at my comment here to add just a bit more detail.

- **Section Two:** Your reader will be most interested in your experiences from high school, so this is where we can start talking about your recent robotics experiences. Use these questions to help you brainstorm 1-2 new paragraphs:
 - Since your early battles, have you pursued robotics or related fields in school or independently? What new skills have you learned? How has your knowledge grown? How have you applied these new learnings since you began building robots? For example, do you build even more sophisticated robots now, or has your interest in robotics inspired you to pursue other interests in STEM?
- **Section Three:** Then, we can work on developing your main message, showing why this early experience of defeat was so pivotal for you.
 - It seems that your main message is that this first loss inspired you to be “the guy that nobody wants to fight,” so let’s expand on this idea. What kind of preparation do you have to do in order to become this kind of person? How else have you worked to better yourself and learn on your own? How will you apply those skills going forward?
- **Conclusion:** Finally, we can wrap up your essay by summing up your positive growth and looking to the future. For instance, where might your skills and your robotics interests take you in college? But, we can wait until the rest of your content is in place to develop this section in detail!

The Intro Fight

~~I have always been interested in robots.~~ Nine-year-old me couldn’t get enough of shows like Discovery’s *Battlebots*, competitions that combined mechanics with all the excitement of a real battle. I spent months building my first robot, and finally it was time to fight. My first opponent was a handful of years older than me and far more experienced. Despite how favored he was, an air of anticipation hung over the crowd. The announcer called us up. My titanium-clad opponent entered first, and I, clad with aluminum, followed. With shaky hands, I ~~apprehensively~~ turned my robot on and it buzzed into electronic life.

Commented [1]: Let’s find a more exciting first sentence that will grab the reader’s attention. For example, something like “Finally it was time to fight” would make the reader want to keep reading. This is just an example, so try to come up with your own compelling opening!

Commented [2]: Where were you? Was this at a regional battle? At school?

Commented [3]: “Shaky hands” does a great job of showing your nerves, so you don’t need this adverb.

Our robots weren't simply line followers or basketball shooters. They were combat robots – smashing, crashing killing machines. ~~I had spent painstaking hours of trial and error constructing my aluminum and polycarbonate machine and learning how to radio control it in my family's living room.~~ ~~My~~ The robot's weapon was a flipper, which aimed to immobilize other robots by lifting their wheels off the ground. ~~I had spent painstaking hours of trial and error constructing my aluminum and polycarbonate machine and learning how to radio control it in my family's living room.~~

With four beeps and some green lights, ~~I exhausted my time for daydreaming;~~ it was time for battle. Our fight lasted two minutes. We pushed each other. We clobbered each other into the walls. I even got a chance to attempt a few flips, but was never able to fully invert my opponent. After the ~~two-minute~~ battle ended, my robotic gladiator emerged almost unscathed, but it was up to a panel of three judges to decide my fate.

“And the winner by judges' decision,” said the announcer, was not me.

I looked up at my father in agonizing defeat. I had been convinced that my robot would win not just its first fight but the entire competition! My father gave me the “losing look” ~~that I have now grown accustomed to over the years of fighting robots.~~

~~On the way home, I reflected on the agony of defeat. I was disappointed by the loss, but suddenly I realized that I would never win unless I tried again. You can't have success without failure, and you can't let yourself feel too defeated to never try again. This realization has shaped who I am today. Now, whenever I face an obstacle, I just imagine myself as one of my robots: resilient, indestructible, and with years of experience in the arena behind me.~~

Nowadays, I find myself in the winners' circle a lot more. My first loss provided me with the motivation to become the guy nobody wants to fight – not just in robotics,

Commented [4]: This is your Section one. I suggest putting this sentence here, and then you might follow up with a sentence or two about how you learned to build the robots. What fascinated you about building them? What made you want to learn more?

Commented [5]: After this, add your new Section Two and Section Three. These new sections will help speed up the story and show us how you have grown your skills since then. Don't worry about word count yet—once you have these new sections, we can start looking for places to trim.

Commented [6]: Let's work on developing this theme. My questions under Section Three should help you write a new paragraph here. Try to use a more recent example of how you prepared to solve a problem and be unbeatable, either in the arena or out of it!

but in life as well. I realized that although one will never win every time, it's always worth getting in the arena.

Commented [7]: This gives us a hint that you're still competing, which is great! We'll want to make this idea a big part of your essay so readers understand how you have evolved since this first fight! Writing a new Section Two will help with this.