

Theme

- SOUP -
 - STEAM - the principles of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics
 - Outreach - outreach efforts
 - Unity - unifying people from different backgrounds, working together, unifying the community (include making the masks and stuff during the off season)
 - Progress - improvements within recent years of our robotics team + our robotics team member (personal story of speaker's development + colleges alumni go to)

I. STEAM Outreach

- FLL (Pilot) Teams
- Speaking to NJ School Board Administrators at the Atlantic City School Board Conference
 - Include that we are the only FIRST team that does this
- Rockwell Automation + PACK Expo
- Hosting Tech Challenges for Middle Schooler
- Hosting Summer Camps for Middle Schoolers

II. Unity

- nearly 50% POC
- 10 of 30 career programs
- 20 of 37 towns in Camden County
- 66% free or reduced lunch

- Instances of working together/community involvement
 - Making the masks + PPE for local first responders
 - (Optional) FLL Pilot Teams
 - National Advocacy Conference = bonding w/ different teams
 - CDR @ Lockheed

III. Progress + New Pillars

- Personal story of development with Team 203 → “robots build the students” type beat
- Team Growth
 - In numbers
 - In relations → like a second family
- Our robot-building process
- Previous year accomplishments
 - Both within competition and outside of the competition season

Speaker One: Hi, I am _____ and I’m a ____ (grade) from (town) NJ

Speaker Two: I’m _____ and I’m a ____ (grade) from (town) NJ

Speaker Three: And I’m _____ and I’m a ____ (grade) from (town) NJ. We are Team 203.

1. STEAM OUTREACH

Our team has been around for 24 years and in those years, SOUP, has always been a part of our culture. In honor of our founding sponsor Campbell's, our acronym stands for STEAM, Outreach, Unity, and Progress. Our students, families, and mentors continue to practice our SOUP Mission in our school, community, and beyond. Our team has always represented these FIRST values through our core belief that "SOUP" is good for everyone.

Our first pillar is STEAM, which our team promotes in our school and throughout our entire school district. Team 203 was the motivating factor in the implementation of STEAM academies including Information Technology, Pre-Engineering, Medical Arts, and Environmental Science at our vocational-technical school. We also designed a robotics elective for students that aren't able to stay after school, with a curriculum based on the technical principles of FIRST Robotics. In addition, our team hosts a summer STEAM camp for middle school students that is based on the previous year's First Lego League game, and a Coding Camp.

Our second pillar is outreach. Team 203 has found the importance of reaching out to the community around us in order to promote the spread of STEAM education and the magic of FIRST. We helped start 7 FLL teams in 2020 and continue to mentor them. Through these efforts, we hope to intrigue younger generations into the world of FIRST and STEAM. For the past 7 years, our team has attended the New Jersey School Boards Conference where our team gives presentations and demonstrates the robot used in the previous competition season. Additionally, we were invited to the 2018 Rockwell Automation Fair to do the same. We also represented FIRST at the PACK Expo in Philadelphia, PA and we are doing so again this year on

March 21st. At these events we were able to speak to various employees and adults about the importance of FIRST and the benefits of the program.

Our team takes pride in our efforts to spread STEAM education throughout our community, and we plan to continue in future years.

2. Unity

The next pillar of SOUP is U for unity. Team 203 is a diverse team made of students from different backgrounds all bonding over a passion for STEAM and robotics. Our 55 member team consists of 15 women, 4 non-binary people, and 36 men. And of those 55 students, 50% of them are people of color. Additionally, our team represents 10 of the 30 career programs offered at our school, 20 of the 37 towns in our county, and 66% of our members are on free or reduced lunch. We find it imperative that every student has an equal opportunity to experience the beauty of STEAM education. We are proud of our numbers and the fact that our team has touched the lives of so many underrepresented students therefore increasing diversity in the workforce.

Our team finds it important to work with others from all over to improve the quality of life and education for everyone. For instance, at the start of the pandemic, our team began making PPE for local first responders. With the help of 3D printing, our members were able to donate 375 face shields and 1,000 face-mask clips to the Camden County Office of Emergency Management and other first responders. In 2019, our team participated in the FIRST National Advocacy Conference where we talked to members of congress regarding the importance of

FIRST as well as supporting the Christa McAuliffe Coin Bill. Additionally, in June 2022 we are scheduled to speak again about the importance of STEAM and FIRST. Our team also engages in Critical Design Reviews every season with our sponsor, Lockheed Martin, along with other teams. We work together to critique each others' robot design and inspire one another with different ideas.

Overall, Team 203 is a team that understands and values the importance of unity and diversity.

3. Progress

The next pillar of SOUP is progress. The SouperBots strive for both team and individual growth. We full-heartedly believe in the phrase "robots build the students". Following the FIRST INSPIRES motto, "more than robots," Team 203 isn't only about learning technology, but also about instilling confidence and soft skills.

When Team 203 first started 24 years ago, we had only 10 kids, one mentor, and the bare minimum material to build a robot. But as the program progressed, it gained more support from the school and the community, allowing our team to grow both in numbers and resources. Last season, our team had over 70 members and had many accomplishments on and off the competition field. Team 203 has won the Engineering Inspiration award at our regional competition, won the Chairman's award at the district level, and even competed at the world level over 10 times in the team's history. Our team works hard-- even during off seasons-- to provide a top-tier STEAM experience for our community.

4. Excellence and Resilience

Speaking of progress. Team 203 thought it would be best to add to our famous SOUP acronym and turn it into SOUPER! For our new pillars, we have chosen “excellence” and “resilience.” Ever since this team was founded, we have strived for excellence. We all work hard and are motivated to build a well planned and beautifully designed robot to the best of our ability. We encourage respect, sportsmanship, team spirit, and fun in everything we do! We have been through many trials and challenges over the past couple of years, however, we powered through it. We won the Engineering Inspiration Award, held Google Meets to compensate during quarantine, and donated valuable resources to our community in their time of need. We have learned how to bounce back from mishaps, whether that be a worldwide pandemic or a flaw in our robot. Our setbacks became challenges that allowed us to demonstrate our resilience as a team. As we to grow over the years we will continue to uphold our standards of excellence in all of our endeavors, and pass it down to generations to come.

All in all, our team progresses because our members develop as individuals and our members progress because of the strong foundation of the team. Our team has strength in numbers, skills, organization and support. In Team 203 we're changing perspectives, connecting people, and creating opportunities through our culture of SOUPER. Which includes STEAM, Outreach, Unity, Progress, Excellence, and Resilience. We are Team 203 the SOUPer Bots.