

**Honorable Mention  
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**Title: Laws of Life**

My laws of life concern a lot of my family members and how I want to model my life style to meet their outstanding values.

Two of the people I'm discussing are my grandparents. They raised eight children and only one of them worked a job until all the children were in school. I asked my grandma about how she did that and she responded "It was hard cooking and working but the children all pretty much got along and played together. Every once in a while they would fight and I would have to stop them! The children didn't have everything in the world, but they were not short of anything either. They had one day in the week to look forward to and that was Friday. Friday was called Special Friday. They liked it so much because they could not have pop any other day of the week. However on Friday they got to have pop and other things grandpa's famous Charlie Burgers!" Charlie is my grandpa's first name! My grandma also said that money was "ok" and that they managed. I asked my grandma one more question. "If you could go back in time and change the fact that only one parent worked would you?" Her response was "No I would rather be home with the children. I would have had a job it would have been too much. Plus! I had plenty to do with the cleaning!" My grandpa's was a military man for twenty-five years. I learned respect out of that and I hope to apply to my life.

Another person I admire is my uncle Cliff Washington. He is a Four Star Colonel in the military. He studied R.O.T.C. at Wilmington College for six years. He graduated and joined the military where he's still with today. He is not involved in the Iraq war, which is something I am thankful for. I get courage from my uncle because he put and still is putting his life on the line.

The fourth person I get my values from is my other uncle Ben Washington. He was on his way to become a Cincinnati Reds baseball player until something went wrong. Out of nowhere, the Reds recruited him. He was on the Reds Farm Team traveling and practicing with the team until he got sick. The sun, the heat, and the lack of water caused it and poisoned his kidneys. He now has two beautiful children and is living his life to the fullest. He does not drink anything that has alcohol in it. I got living my life to the fullest because you never know what can happen and you should never take things for granted from my uncle Ben.

My mother Tracee Cloyd is an inspiration to me. I wanted to know how it was like raising a child on your own. I asked her and she said "I had you when I was twenty three years old in 1989. I separated from your dad in 1990 and I've been raising you ever since. I always had a job to raise you. Family members helped out as well. You never wanted anything. You always had what you wanted even though I was a single parent." From my mom I learned to be loyal to mankind. She's my true roll model.

The last family member in my paper I'm going to write about is my Aunt Dreta. She has always loved kids but life threw her a curve ball. My aunt loved kids so

much she wanted one of her own. She took care of everybody else's kids, the families, friends, and the neighbors! She and her husband tired for years and years but out of nowhere God gave her the greatest blessing. He blessed her with a beautiful baby boy at the age of thirty-eight. She is forty and although she has her own child she still takes care of everybody's kids as if they were her own! From her I learned to care about others and to be friendly.

In conclusion, I draw my values from people who surround me with love and security. I know if I follow their directing I will live a life filled with values that will reflect attitude assertive to becoming an assist to society and myself.