

Samarth Desai

Times Leader Essay Contest

Essay Contest Middle School – Grade 7

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### My Parents and They're Influence on My Destiny

During my childhood, the two beings who most greatly guided me, who shaped my future, were my parents. My parents shaped my interests, my thought pattern; my parents shaped my destiny. My parents taught me so much in the twelve years of my natural-born life that is difficult for me to recall every single life lesson my parents taught me. But, there are some guidelines that are so important to my everyday life, that it would be hard to forget. In fact, some of these lessons are *impossible* to forget.

Many of the lessons my parents taught me are rooted from my ancestors. One of my ancestors was – to some extent – an important figure in the struggle for India's freedom from the British Empire. This ancestor actually went to jail with the Father of India, Mahatma Gandhi. My father uses this man's story as an example of two of his chief ideals. My father tells me to always stand up for what I believe in. He also says to not be frightened by anyone or anything because if I didn't do anything wrong then there would be nothing to be frightened of.

My other ancestor was dismissed from his father's house at age fifteen because he asked for money. After that, my ancestor opened a business and eventually became so financially well-to-do that he would donate astronomical sums of money, remembering the less fortunate. My father uses this story to emphasize another life lesson; that lesson being to never be dependent upon anyone else. Because if the person I depend upon ever becomes unreliable, I can carry on

the work myself; he taught me to be independent. He also uses this to remind me that nothing is impossible.

My deceased grandfather probably made one of the largest impacts on my personality today. My grandfather was the topmost lawyer and figure in his hometown. He was the best of the best. What my father tells me about him is that he would always strive to be number one. This lesson is what my life today is made of, always strive to be number one.

Finally, one of the last things my parents taught me should be taught to every politician in this area. With all the local corruption, I used to believe that it was impossible to succeed without corruption. I realize today that I was wrong. My father has drilled into me one phrase that will stay with me forever, "Never cheat, but never be cheated." This is achieving the best of both worlds.

The things that my parents taught me should be the ideals of all human beings today. The tales of my brilliant, powerful ancestors inspire me, and the ways they achieved their greatness inspire me even more. The sheer brilliance of all of these life lessons my parents have taught me are so intriguing that if everyone would follow these lessons, the world would be a wonderful, admirable place. It would truly be Heaven on Earth.

I am a seventh grade student at Wilkes-Barre Academy. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns you can contact:

1. Me by
2. Emailing me at [samarthpd@gmail.com](mailto:samarthpd@gmail.com)
3. Calling my school Wilkes-Barre Academy at the number 570-823-7574 and asking to speak to Samarth Desai in seventh grade.
4. My literature teacher Ms. Yale by calling Wilkes-Barre Academy and asking to speak to Ms. Yale.

I have learned so many important lessons from my parents and grandparents. Of course, there are the fundamental lessons like stand up straight, have good manners, and be sure to say please and thank you. In addition to those essential good habits, there are other lessons to be learned that are instilled in us through our family values. These lessons are passed down from generation to generation. The following are just a few of the lessons that I believe are most important.

First and foremost, I have learned to believe and have faith in God. No matter what we do in life, God will always be there to love and listen to us. I believe He is there watching, guiding, and protecting us. I never go to bed without praying, and as a matter of fact, I don't think I could go more than three hours without saying a prayer. I try to incorporate God into my daily life. Some people may doubt the existence of God and say that seeing is believing. For me, believing is seeing.

Another lesson I have learned is to respect my life and the lives of others. The gift of life is something that we should cherish. We live in a world where people value material things such as iPods and cell phones, and some even senselessly destroy property or commit random acts of violence. I believe my purpose in this life is to use the talents I have been given to help others. Once we learn how to respect the value of our own life, we can then respect the lives of others.

Lastly, I have always been encouraged to be a leader, not a follower. I believe many temptations face young people in today's society. While striving for acceptance, people may sometimes take the easy path of going along with others instead of doing what's right. When I enter high school next fall, I know that I will be faced with many temptations of my own. I am confident that since I've been taught to be an independent thinker, and that I *can* make a difference with my words and actions, I will emerge as a leader and not a follower.

The life lessons I have highlighted in this essay are some of the most valuable of all that I have learned from my parents and grandparents. I am very fortunate that they continue to encourage and support me in all that I do. Their lives have been an inspiration to me in so many ways. They have provided me with true examples of integrity, independence and self respect, but most of all, love. By living according to these teachings, I hope to make them proud and show them that the values I carry with me have come from them.

**What I Learned Most**  
**From My Parents and Grandparents**

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Middle School Final  
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My parents have taught me so many life lessons that I will use and cherish forever. Whether the lesson is about being happy with myself or with others, my parents help me to become a better person each day.

My parents taught me to cherish others and treat them with respect. You never can truly know what others are going through. We are in no place to judge. You can do so much for a person by opening your heart to them and lending a helping hand than choosing to be nasty towards that person. Being the bigger person in any situation will take you so much further. Forgiveness is incredibly important. It can bring you so much more of a peaceful life. Holding grudges may end up keeping you from enjoying the positive, happy things in life so you have to eventually let go.

My parents taught me to be happy with myself. My mom always tells me that everyone is different. Everyone has different things that make them special. You should embrace those things and feel confident with the talents, gifts, and abilities you were given. In order to love others, you have to be able to love and accept yourself. Insecurities may be holding you back from being happier, so you should take the time to get passed them and be glad and thankful for the things you love about yourself.

I have been taught to follow my dreams. Nothing is impossible and it is worth it to take chances and try different things. You never know what kind of opportunities are ahead of you. There is so much we can achieve in our lives and we will never know what those things are if we do not take the time to try. You can do anything if you put your mind and best efforts into it. Having determination can give you so much more drive to be able to accomplish what you want most.

My parents taught me to appreciate every single gift and privilege I have been given. You shouldn't take anything for granted and it is an important thing to take the time to be grateful and realize that some others may not have been given the same opportunities. Instead of dwelling on what you might not have, dwell on what you do have.

And finally, my parents taught me to be optimistic and live life with a smile. Life is so much better and you get so much more out of it if you have an open mind. Plus, we only get one life to live so we may as well make the most as we possibly can out of it. You can get something out of everything you do if you take time to notice the simple, important things in our lives.

My parents are incredible for teaching me all that they have so far. I am unconditionally thankful for the morals I now have because of them and I will continually strive to be a happier, healthier, better person.