

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Essay

## Daniel Perez

### Laws of Life

Life is but a land of opportunities, defined not by your actions, but by your choices. It is important to say that personally I have experienced several situations which have guided me to question my own actions, thoughts, and feelings, but have felt relieved to know I made the correct answer because I found it within me. I come across the feeling of life being a certain philosophical race through time, where you can discover knowledge that should enrich your soul. You face obstacles which challenge this journey, but they merely depend on you to overcome them.

It is comforting to know that I develop a choice in life guided by intuition, knowledge, and joy; by what I want. I think that a primary law in any person's life is to know yourself, because this factor will lead you to your most probable and likely action and outcome. Before you can understand the world and interact with the people in it, you must be able to know your world, your being, your most intimate and true self. As Descartes' most famous and intriguing quote points out: "*I think, therefore, I exist.*" You cannot possibly be able to exist in the surrounding universe if you cannot think about yourself.

If you start to analyze what you really are, you will find that you are a constitution of moral values, beliefs and ideals. I find it very important to know your strengths in these matters, but most importantly, to know your weaknesses. A person who has practiced respect all his life has accomplished something outstanding, but one who has faced envy and desire, and has learned to diminish it and has developed tolerance and generosity has found a true meaning to his or her life. It is crucial to understand this principle, because it constitutes the basic meaning of life for me, which is not to gain material benefits, but to enrich the soul, and to purify that part which lasts with us forever. I think it is infinitely rewarding to be able to answer at the end of the voyage. "¿What did you do in your life?" with a clear, undoubting response: I learned to tolerate, to respect, . . . to love.

I ponder on the idea that people often tend to idolize a certain belief so strongly that they are willing to discriminate all other thoughts and dreams. Personally, this seems a bit naive; life can't be that simple. Life is a complex mixture of variables, and you cannot make your way through it solely focusing on one. There is no black or white, only creation. It is essential that we do not choose our way through life, but that create it. One does not die when his body stops functioning, but rather ceases to exist when he is unable to be astounded by the glories and miracles life bestows on you, when you can ignorantly describe yourself as bored. There is so much out there you can accomplish and discover; it depends only on you truly believing it possible to become real.

To compare life to something would be truly inaccurate, for no analogy or word could describe what it truly is: life is *life*, that's it. You are the only writer of your book, and if you master the knowledge within you, no reader will be able to find the words danger, obstacle or failure in your work of art.

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## Pedro Madero

Laws of Life

Pedro Madero

Life is a very important thing that must be given the right importance to flow correctly through it and get to be something important in your life. With being something important in life I refer to overcome all the obstacles and achieve your personal goals.

To become a successful person in life you must follow a code or law to guide you through your path. This can also be called the morale that you have. Some of the things you have to be able to make to become a successful person, well at least for me are the following:

1. **Be responsible:** Responsibility is a very important value when talking about this. If you are not responsible you can't manage to adjust your short term goals, neither your long term ones. One thing that happened to me involving responsibility was, winning the scholarship because if I wasn't responsible that could have been impossible to achieve so I consider myself responsible thanks to that.
2. **Be optimistic:** If you aren't optimistic you won't be able to achieve anything in life. You need to see the good things in life to be able to surpass the obstacles efficiently. I consider myself optimistic, I am a happy person that likes to laugh about its problems.
3. **Be perseverant:** You won't get anything easy in life, good things have a high cost. Work is what you need to do to get what you want. If you receive a no for an answer try again until you achieve it or try in another place but never give up. You should never give up, that is one thing I have learned, by giving up you just refuse to keep trying and you will regret the "What if's", because it is better to try and lose than to ask yourself what could have happened.
4. **Always ask yourself for more:** Being a conformist is a bad way to live life, you just get what they give you with no need to show what you can really do or what you really deserve. The big idols in history weren't conformist, they were the opposite, they were always looking for new ways to make life better or to reach equality. Being taught of the life of all these people has made in me a deep impression. This people even risked their lives to achieve a common goal like liberty, anti war movements, abolishment of segregation, etc... this role models are the guys I would like to compare my life with theirs and see if I had made anything important for this world in which we live in.
5. **Always try to be an example:** Modern role models are scarce now a days, current generations are lacking of guidance falling into desperation, drugs and many bad things. You should be an example today, be some kind of hero and help solve modern problems by just giving your example. By giving your example you can change the world, if you change four people, and those people other four and this continually, values and good things will be transmitted along society making this, a better place to live.
6. **Treasure your friends and family:** Your family and friends are some of the best things in life. They teach you almost everything you know and you to them. Their influence into me and you is great, so what will happen if you loose their support, that would be bad right? So you should take advantage from these precious treasures to enrich your life and enrich theirs. If my family or my friends hadn't supported me, I wouldn't be here, in this high school, right now, they are the guide light that helps me linger on through this life.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Essay

### Rodolfo Trevino

#### The Laws of Life

There's a time in a man's life when one wonders about his creation and how every single decision he has taken has lead him to be the person he is today. During all these thoughts one sees those moments that seem impossible to overcome and how other people in similar situations have been able to overcome those obstacles. It is in that moment that it hits you; you now know the laws of life.

Life is under no circumstance easy. No one has ever considered it to be as such. Life is a constant struggle, where once you've dealt with one problem you face another. In life anything goes, you must only bear in mind that every decision has its consequences and the only thing not possible is a second try. Life has but only one rule, and this rule is unbreakable, it is called time. Time decides when life begins, when it ends and it cannot be tampered with. Every decision taken now will forever change the outcome of your life. So out of virtually infinite decisions to choose from, one must take a risk. Life is all about risks and how every decision you make can and will affect not only you, but the people around you.

Today I see myself and can only wonder about the kind of man I'm going to be. When I was young, my father was studying at Medical School in Houston, TX. I would see him once every 2 or 3 days. Whenever he came home, you could see his eyes red because of the exhaustion and his urge to go to sleep, but he knew how much my brother and I wanted to spend time with him and spent as much time possible with us. We did not have much money, because my father was still studying and got a paycheck that could cover only our basic needs, but despite that, those were the best years of my life.

Life has changed a lot since those years. Since then I decided that I wanted to be a doctor like my old man. Every weekend I would go with him to see his patients and on occasions I would go with him and watch different surgical procedures in the Operating Room. Even a few months back I still wanted to be a doctor. But one day I was thinking about my career opportunities and compared different options that would obviously change the outcome of my life. After giving it a deep thought I realized that I didn't want to be a doctor, I wanted to be like my dad.

My father is the man whom I admire the most and who I would love to grow up to be like. He has worked nonstop for the last 8 years since we arrived to Monterrey and before that when we lived in Houston. He has a very extensive professional practice, but that is not what impresses me the most. What I find most appealing is his ethical background. Perhaps his biggest quality is his level of responsibility. He is a pediatrician and knows that he must respond immediately to any call from a patient who is under the need of medical attention. He doesn't have a daytime schedule because patients arrive 24/7. He works all day long and I hear his pager ringing frequently during nighttime.

Whenever I get a bad grade on a work at school, the first thing that pops into my head is how I've let him down. I find it hard to believe that he can spend all day and night saving someone's life so he can pay my tuition, food and housing, and I can't study enough to get a good grade. I ever carry a note on my wallet that I use when I'm doing homework and decide to give up and try to continue or leave it as it is. It says "he would do it for you". What this means is that if he had to do that thing all night for me, he would