

3rd Place Essay

Rosalba de Garate

"En la Búsqueda"

"El que no vive para servir, no sirve para vivir" Hasta el día de hoy, he logrado encontrar en estas palabras el significado de lo que yo llamo objetivo. En la búsqueda constante del ser humano por encontrar la felicidad, me he topado con diferentes tipos de: ideologías, religiones, estilos de vida y demás pensamientos. Sin embargo, el pensar que el mundo se divide en tantas formas, me deja vacía y con un mundo de preguntas. Tomando en cuenta lo anterior y sintiendo la necesidad de buscar el más allá de las cosas, opte, por buscar una filosofía más adecuada a mi ser, por lo que encontré el hinduismo. En dicha religión me encontré a mi ser y, entendí la razón de mi existencia. Llamándolo existencia al objetivo de estar en la vida.

Dentro de mi ser, guardo un lugar, en dicho espacio se encuentran pinturas colgadas en las paredes, las cuales reflejan mis miedos, angustias, sentimientos, metas, logros, amigos, familia, ídolos y personas que dejan huella. Luego tengo un escritorio, con cajones llenos de experiencias, lo cual para mí, son realidades. Enfrente está un sillón, al cual voy meditar sobre las cosas que veo, dichas observaciones las hago a través de 3 enormes ventanales que se encuentran a un costado. Estos se dividen en razón, sentimiento y sueños. Como sello especial, en el techo tengo grabado mi objetivo en la vida. En la única puerta que hay, está grabado la palabra justicia, la cual, considero de suma importancia.

Lo más grandioso de este lugar, es que en él puedo quitar una pintura, meditar sobre ella, observar el panorama que me dan los ventanales, e irlo cambiando para que llegue a adornar dicho espacio y así cambiar mi entorno.

Para mí, la vida es estar dentro de este lugar, quizás sea pequeño para algunos, para otros será absurdo, pero para mi ser, no. Desde ahí vivo mi vida de una manera bastante acorde a mis necesidades, y que, me ayuda a tener un crecimiento tanto espiritual como humano.

Yo pienso que cada persona tiene un lugar así dentro de su ser, a lo mejor no tan definido, sin embargo existente.

3rd Place Essay

Raul Salas

Raúl Salas A.

Laws of Life Essay

Stephen D. Covey once said "The mission of life: love; live; learn; leave a legacy.", and I totally agree with this magnificent author, but have to say that leaving a legacy is the result of accomplishing the first three. Throughout life, if you don't have a motivation, you will never accomplish anything you set for yourself as a goal, and more importantly, you won't enjoy it, and will only worry about "floating along" and just conforming yourself with mediocrity. Next, I would like to talk about why loving, living and learning are the three most important missions in life, and help you accomplish the fourth mission, which is leaving a legacy.

Love is a strong topic to talk about, and could hardly be described in only one paragraph. It is impressive that after analyzing the main religions in the world you arrive to the conclusion that perhaps every one of them has different gods and their own types of "commandments" and what not, but they are based on the same main belief, which is love. Love your neighbor as you love yourself; love to be loved in return, are just so ways in which through holy writings we can value the true meaning of this powerful word. Writer John Williamson said, "*Anyone can hate. It costs to love.*". Look at it this way, if you see a person on the street with a bad humor, or even a frown, it will not make you any happier, on the other hand, if you see a person in a good humor who's wearing a smile on his/her face, whether you want it or not, you will most probably pick up a good humor and smile yourself. We know that loving our enemies is not an easy thing to do, but it is because it's so difficult, that it makes it so important.

"Life is never a straight line; it is full of twists and turns. The way to lead a happy life is not to avoid them but to embrace them; to find the happiness in them." was said by Warren T. VanderVen, and it amazes me to discover that perhaps your life is not the most successful, but if you are giving it your best effort into making it the most successful, it is your effort that counts, and therefore you will be pleased with your work, but will never stop asking yourself for more, until you reach your set goal, and set a higher and tougher one. It is accomplishing our hardest goals that cause satisfaction, and not just any goal with the easiest effort. In school, grades are an insignificant number, it is your effort and dedication that count.

Last but not least is learning, Oscar Wilde, famous American writer once said, "Nothing worth learning can be taught", and I totally agree with him. Not that our teachers at school are in vain, because it is true that we owe much to them since our first day at school to our graduation day from college, but it is through the hard tests of life that we achieve our toughest but most memorable lessons. For example, usually after going through a tough situation, we reflect upon what we have gone through and find out what we could have done differently to avoid the situation, the "if I would've...instead of..." part, and it is through these reflections that we learn how to act next time we are present in this same situation or something similar to it.

As a conclusion, I would like to say that these three interesting missions in life, if accomplished and done to its fullest will help you leave a positive legacy. How you might ask? In fact it is very simple, love will get you many friends and family to whom to leave the legacy to, living your life to the fullest will help you "squeeze out the juice" of every succulent moment in life, and learning will give you things to leave as your legacy. Every one of these missions goes hand in hand with another. So remember, love, live and learn to leave a positive legacy.

3rd Place Essay

Manuel Yanez

Laws of life

My laws of life are simple, since little I always liked the codes of honor of the knights of old and the Samurai. This is why I adopted a code of ethics called Bushido or often called the "way of the warrior".

There are 7 principles which follow this code:

- **Honesty and justice:** Be acutely honest throughout your dealings with all people. Believe in justice not from other people but from yourself.
- **Polite Courtesy:** you have no reason to be cruel. You must be courteous even with your enemies, without this show of respect we are nothing more than animals.
- **Courage:** Rise up above the masses of people who are afraid to act. It is absolutely risky, it is dangerous, it is living life completely, fully, wonderfully. Courage is not blind it is intelligent and strong.
- **Honor:** there is only one judge of honor and that is you. Decisions you make and how this decisions are carried out are a reflection of whom you truly are. You cannot hide from yourself.
- **Compassion:** Help your fellow men at every opportunity, if an opportunity does not arise, you go out and find one.
- **Complete Sincerity:** When you say you will perform an action, it is as good as done; nothing must stop you from completing what you have said you will do. You do not need to "give your word" nor have to promise. Speaking and doing must be the same action.
- **Duty and Loyalty:** for you must having done some "thing" or said some "thing". You must know that you own that "thing" and that you're responsible for it and all the consequences to follow. You must be immensely loyal to those you care, for those you're responsible for, you must remain fiercely true.

I follow this code because it has many truths and values within it. I often think that are the values that the society lacks so we can all get along and live in peace and harmony. There will be fewer wars because we respected each other and not acted as animals and destroy everything on our path. I think this is what the world is lacking. If every one followed this code everything would be different.