



# *Laws of Life*

## Scoring Criteria

<b>Content</b>	<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Grammar &amp; Spelling</b>
<p><b>Most important criterion</b>—Is the essay positive and life-affirming? Does it have universal appeal? Does it include a <b>clearly articulated</b> <i>law of life</i> that would make the world a better place if everyone practiced it? Would most people agree that this is an important <i>law of life</i>? Did the essay make you both think and feel? Did the essay “move” you in some way? Did you learn something special and compelling about the author? Did the essay capture a value or an ideal in a unique and special way?</p>	<p><b>Important criterion</b>—Is the essay easy to read? Is it clearly written? Were you able to tell exactly what the author was trying to share? Do the ideas and paragraphs flow smoothly?</p>	<p><b>Criterion</b>—Unless there are mistakes that suggest a sloppy and hurriedly written essay, proper grammar and spelling are weighted less as a criterion. However, judges should determine to what extent poor grammar and spelling might distract a reader from understanding the basic message of the essay.</p>

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