

## English 12: Composition

Scale: 5

### Comment:

This response was awarded a 5. The student displays good control of language. The use of personal example is relevant and thoughtful.

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The most important thing in my life is my family. My family is my solid rock of support, my greatest influence and my greatest conflict. Each person in my mighty oak of a family tree has helped shape who I am through my own experiences with them, experiences they have relayed to me, and wisdom they pass on. My positive connections with these older generations have greatly enriched my life.

My mother and my grandmother are two very headstrong women that have had a huge impact on me. My grandmother taught me the value of being a lady and how important it is for me to keep it that way. My mother has taught me how to be insightful and ambitious, and to challenge every statement and idea ever said. It is unimaginable for me to even contemplate what my life would be like without them.

My grandmother was a working woman in a time that this was considered to be preposterous. She taught me that a woman is her own person: never let anyone else control you. My grandmother had this theory that she liked to call "mad money". Whenever my grandfather made her angry, she would take the sum of money, unbeknownst to him she had been saving, and go away for the night or however long she felt necessary. To this day she still goes by the same policy.

My mother is a defender of the weak. She feels the need to provide for everybody and help wherever she is able. This was very beneficial to me and my brother while we were growing up. Perhaps through genetics or through experience I have inherited this trait, but because of her I too feel this need. My mother helped me create my own mission statement: Defend the dignity of every man, and to go sleep every night with a clear conscience. Two attributes that I value.

Not only have the older generations of my family taught me the "how-to's" of life, but they have also taught me the value of tradition and morals. I accredit my high standards to these people, as well as what I hold dear to my heart. I would not value what I value had it not been for their influence. Part of the reason my family is so important is because my mother has taught me that they are important. She has always told me that "blood is thicker than water".

I feel that the positive connections that I have had with people such as my mother and my grandmother have enriched my life. I have been engulfed in love and wisdom and I will never forget or regret these relationships. It is because of my history that I can have a future.