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What am I thankful for this year?

There are a variety of things that I am thankful for this year. One of the most important and valuable things that I am grateful for is my family. My family includes my parents, brothers, grandparents, Titi, uncle and younger cousins. My grandparents and Titi and uncle all live in New Jersey and my parents, brother, and I all live in Staten Island. You might be asking yourself "why are you thankful for your family?" I am going to explain.

I am thankful for my family because they love, support and care for me in everything that I do. I would be nothing without my family because over the past years as I have grown up they showed me the meaning of true love. For example, my parents care for me and support me in school, when I am sick and with after school activities like basketball, play and Koala Kasters. They are always teaching my brother and I how to make good decisions and do things the right way. They explain to us that there are no shortcuts in life, and that hard work is the only way. I am twelve and realize that sometimes the real world is going to be hard and having the support of family is really important to help me through tough times. No matter what I am going through, my family is always going to be there for me now and in the future.

I would also like to say that even though family members can sometimes be an annoyance make sure to treat them kindly. We all know we have a certain time on earth and then we will go to heaven to meet our heavenly father. I am sorry if this makes you sad. But I feel as if you should love your family members as much as you can because you will miss them in the future. Some people believe that there is no heavenly father. I get it, but that is their own opinion and we may not have enough evidence to prove it but as a christian you must believe it. The reason why is because I have faith.

I also receive support from other family members including my grandma and Titi. My grandma cooks my favorite meals when I sleep over at her house and my Titi takes me shopping at Forever 21. My grandma lives in New Jersey and I love sleeping over at her house because she makes me pancakes. My Titi also lives in New Jersey and takes me shopping at the Menlo Park Mall at Forever 21. They have lots of cool clothes in that store. Spending time with my extended family is something that I enjoy. It's important to treasure these moments because they won't last forever. For example, I am reading the *Outsiders* and we are reading a poem called, "nothing gold can stay" by Robert Frost. It explains how nothing is permanent.

In conclusion, my family is everything to me. We all need support and love to survive. I really don't know how I would feel if I didn't have a family. I would like to thank God for giving me such a wonderful family that cares and that loves me the way they do.