

## Thanksgiving Contest

This is my essay about 3 things I am grateful for and why. I am grateful for many things like the smell of pine trees, the air as it gets to a crisp in the fall, the sun right at sunrise, and when the waves hit the shore, creating a soothing calm sound that always makes me feel safe and at peace. Some things I am absolutely gifted to have in this lifetime, I just can't live without.

As I talk about these things I would like you to know that I am very grateful for all of these things. Not one of them is more special than the other. I love and take care of these things as if I were taking care of myself. Considering what you are reading in my essay, just know that I am very lucky to have a roof over my head and food served to me morning, afternoon, and night. I am not selfish or condescending of any of my actions ever. This has led me to become a stronger, better and wiser person for myself.

**My family** is a big part of my life and one of the major things that I am blessed and very grateful to have. My Mom, as she is always there for me even when she is at her lowest point, she cares for me and will do anything at any time to make sure I'm ok and safe.

My Dad as he protects me and makes sure I take the right steps to achieve whatever my heart desires. My younger sister, when things get hard and seem impossible she will always look on the bright side, always finding solutions. Finally, my baby brother who is always happy and cheers me up even if I'm in the worst state of mind.

My family is one of the biggest, strongest components my life and without them I would not be where I am today. I am proud that I am achieving my goals, doing what is best, and being disciplined enough to do what is right and to always think ahead.

**Swimming** was and is a big part of my life. I am very grateful that my parents have taken the time and effort to put in money and thought into my athletics. I started swimming when I was 2 but competitive swimming was just last year.

I swim for the Swim [Team - Rivertown Academy](#). A great start for an awesome career. I am most grateful for the time and effort my coaches have given me and my teammates. I am now a competitive swimmer on this team and have learned teamwork, dedication, hard work, and loyalty not only to my teammates and coaches but to my integrity.

Swimming makes me happy and full of joy. It is what makes me feel unstoppable and powerful. I feel the water as I dive right through it and I feel peace and safety...like it's my greatest plan of action. As this section of my essay comes to a shortened stop. I have been very inspired by the swimmers that have walked by me with pride and strength. This is what I want to achieve when I walk up to the block to dive into the water and do my very best.

## **My Friends**

My friends are that group of people who make me laugh uncontrollably and want to dance until my feet break! My friends are the people that I can rely on to keep a secret or walk me down to the nurse when I don't feel well. Honestly if I did not have friends I would be a little bit insane. My friends aren't just a group of people that I trust because I get along with them, no. These people are the people that if I have a **MENTAL CRISIS** they can look out for me and be on top of their game whenever I really need them.

Friends might not be the best argument of things that I am grateful for but I really am grateful for them. They are the people I look forward to see in school, on facetime, in the car. Even just seeing a picture of us

together makes me so happy that I am given a wonderful opportunity to have an outside world of my own. I really am grateful for all the smiles and the happy tears that come out from having friends. Overall my friends are my happy place. Some people may have been drawing or carving or even cleaning to make themselves happy but my friends are a really big part of my life and I am very grateful that I get to spend the time with them.

This essay was really fun to write honestly. I really got to look deep inside myself and bring out from inside of me my writer skills to my fingertips. This Thanksgiving, I would like peace for the U.S.A and for countries around the world who need more help than we do. I also would like to give a thanks to Senator Peter Harckham for having this contest and allowing everyone to have written thoughts. I am very thankful for having this opportunity to grow and learn as a student, writer, person and as a kid. Thank you again to Senator Peter Harckham for having this contest.