

# Georgia “Laws of Life” Essay

**Length:** 550 - 700 words (1 ½ pages typed, double-spaced, 12pt. font), narrative (1<sup>st</sup> person)

## What Is A Law of Life?

A *Law of Life* is a wise aphorism, maxim, or saying. It contains words of truth, lasting meaning, or inspiration. Examples include:

- *You are only as good as your word.*
- *To have a friend is to be one.*
- *Honesty is the best policy.*
- *When it is dark enough, you can see the stars.*
- *Smile and the world smiles with you.*

The purpose of your essay is to reflect on a truth about life that you have learned. Think about the core values and principles that guide (and will continue to guide) your life. Students often identify their laws of life through their own experiences, lessons they have learned, and the people who have served as living examples.

Think about a personal experience that taught you a truth about life. The experience may have been a major event in your life, or it may have been a small, private moment when you came to understand something profound about life. Perhaps the experience was something traumatic, such as when you or a family member was in a car wreck. Or perhaps the experience was something that makes you smile every time you think of it—the time your grandmother taught you how to bake a blueberry pie, or the time that you and a friend discovered that laughter was the best medicine.

## Writing Tips:

1. Get specific. The best essays describe a specific situation that was a turning point in the individual’s thinking
2. Use details that help the reader feel as though he or she was right there with you when the event occurred. Let the reader know exactly how you felt and why.
3. Find a Law of Life that is truly relatable. Choose one that is the *logical* lesson from the life event you discuss.
4. Tip from the judges: Be sure to state the maxim near the beginning of your essay.

Find more Laws of Life (a.k.a. “maxims”) on these websites:

[www.bartleby.com](http://www.bartleby.com)

[www.quotegeek.com](http://www.quotegeek.com)

[www.quoteland.com](http://www.quoteland.com)

[www.wiseoldsayings.com](http://www.wiseoldsayings.com)