

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Essay – Maximilian Martinez

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### Culture of Life Essay

The culture of America has changed drastically, and there is no better place to witness this than in our high schools. It feels every year tension grows between people, and everyone is ready to jump at each other's throats. This can be very hard for Pro Life teenagers to deal with, as we face many challenges from our peers. It is not uncommon to hear a debate about abortion in my school, but over the years I have learned that sometimes engaging in a discourse with the other side is not the best option to communicate my point of view. The best way we can foster a culture of life is to set an example of how human beings should treat each other.

Something that a lot of people are guilty of these days is not taking advantage of the opportunities we get to spend time with those we love. I recently lost my grandpa, and I often find myself wishing I had spent more time with him. Ever since his passing, I have made it a priority to spend more time with my other grandparents and to make sure they are taken care of. As a society we need to put more emphasis on spending time with family and reciprocating the same love we receive in those relationships.

In addition, the love and care that we learn from within our families should be extended towards those who need it most. Volunteer work and donating are great ways to take care of our community and make sure all life is cared for. Taking what you have, whether it be time or resources, and giving it to people who cannot care for themselves is a perfect way to show that all life is worthy of care and devotion. Our society has become very self-centered, where everyone tells you to focus on yourself, and products are designed to make you focus on yourself. Many problems in our community could be solved if more people devoted time to others instead of materialistic things. The joy and satisfaction that come from helping others cannot compare with anything you can buy.

A simple compliment or words of endearment can make someone's day, but it seems displays of affection are things that have become less common in recent times. We need to commit to a smile for the people we pass in the hall, asking coworkers how their day is going, calling grandparents, and hugging friends. As human beings we need to be reassured that we are cared about and are not alone in this journey we call life. If all these things are enacted, people would feel a greater connection between each other and would realize life is something that should be relished and preserved.

The way to foster a culture of life begins with appreciating the love you have in the life and for the life you have been given. The answer begins with you.