

**BBB Laws of Life Essay Contest**  
**Essay Scoring Rubric**

Essay ID # _____
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**Compelling Content** *(15 total points possible)*

Circle one

**Law of Life** *(score 1-5; 5 is best)*

Does the essay include a clearly articulated *law(s) of life* or other moral message that would make the world a better place if everyone practiced it? Is the essay positive and life affirming and does it have universal appeal? Would most people agree that this is an important *law of life*?

1    2    3    4    5

**Depth of Understanding** *(score 1-5; 5 is best)*

Does the author relate the *law(s) of life* to their experiences? Did the essay make you both think and feel? Is there evidence of the author's self-reflection and genuine learning – does it capture an “epiphany” or a moment when the “light bulb went on”?

1    2    3    4    5

**Originality** *(score 1-3; 3 is best)*

Did you learn something special and compelling about the author? Did the essay capture a value or ideal in a unique and special way? Was the essay moving?

1            2            3

**Presentation, Grammar & Spelling** *(3 total points possible; score 1-3; 3 is best)*

Is the essay easy to read? Is it clearly written? Were you able to tell exactly what the author was trying to share? Do ideas and paragraphs flow smoothly? Unless there are many glaring mistakes that suggest a sloppy and hurriedly written essay, proper grammar and spelling are not important criteria. Judges should determine to what extent poor grammar and spelling distract a reader from comprehending the basic message of the essay.

1            2            3

**TOTAL SCORE** *(16 possible points)*

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**“Tie-breaking - Ranking the Finalists”**

*Of the essays you read, is this essay in your top 5?*

Yes

No