

## *Benefits of the contest*

*“Before I participated in the contest, I never really thought about what I stand for. Writing the essay was really challenging, because I had to be honest. No excuses. Putting my values down on paper really made me take a hard look at myself. This is an experience that I will cherish for the rest of my life.”*

*— Adolpho, Age 17,  
New York City*

*“Character development does not occur by accident, but through reflection on life’s events. The Laws of Life Essay Contest encourages such reflection and is a key component in a student’s character education.”*

*— Dr. Theron Trimble  
Collier County School District, Naples, Florida*

*“I know that the essays my students write have evoked family discussions and improved relations among my students and their parents.”*

*— Roger Mahn, English Teacher  
Wayzata High School, Wayzata, Minnesota*

*“The contest has really improved the climate in my classroom and has helped me get to know my students for who they really are.”*

*— Jane Garland, Teacher  
Apollo Career Center, Lima, Ohio*

*“Whether or not a school is taking part in character education activities, the essay contest is a wonderful way to get kids to think and write about the universal traits of good character.”*

*— Jason Wetzzel, Associate Director  
Georgia Character Education Center, Atlanta, Georgia*



*Sir John Templeton congratulates Damian Forbes, a recent prizewinner*

*"I believe the contest is a great way for a local community to publicly recognize young people who have taken the time to reflect upon and write about their ideals and values."*

*— Vince Cancro, English Department Chair  
West Philadelphia Catholic High School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

*"The contest helps my students to internalize the values that we emphasize in our school."*

*— Alexis Fell, Lead Teacher  
East High School, Cleveland, Ohio*