

## *Letter to My Fellow Teachers*

Dear Colleague:

During an in-service before the beginning of the school year in 1987, all the English teachers in my high school had assembled for opening remarks from our department supervisor. After a few routine announcements, he informed us that our superintendent was interested in having our students participate in a *Laws of Life* Essay Contest. When the supervisor left the room, we all began to verbalize our feelings: “The kids won’t do it — they just WON’T!” “How am I supposed to find the TIME to do this contest?”



Sound familiar? But here I am thirteen years later, along with my fellow teachers, enthusiastically eating those words. Working with my students on their essays has been a rewarding experience that I now look forward to each year. I believe wholeheartedly that the contest has had a positive impact on the lives of my students and their families.

Teachers in my school unanimously support the *Laws of Life* Essay Contest. We regard it as both an effective character education program and a beneficial writing project for students of all ability levels. I cannot express the immeasurable pride and satisfaction I feel when a student tells me that he or she is a winner — especially a student who months earlier told me, “I don’t have ANYTHING to write about.” It is my hope that this Teacher’s Guide will be helpful as you begin to encourage your students to participate in the contest. Good luck and best wishes to you and all your students.

Sincerely,

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