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## MOTHER

For my essay, I have decided to talk about how much of a huge impact my mother has had on me. She made me realize how important life really is and how no one should take it for granted. Some of the most important things she has taught me are: to respect everyone, no matter what age, race, sex, size, or shape they are; never give in to peer pressure; and always do what you feel is right, not what other people tell you is right and that no matter how bad things can get in your life, don't say everything is all your fault because in the long run, it most likely wasn't.

I have learned that when you have respect for somebody, they will have respect for you. Just like the saying, "Treat someone the way you would like to be treated." I remember when I was a little kid and my mother would always tell me not to judge or make fun of anyone. Well, when you are a little kid, somethings will go in one ear and out the other. Then, one day, there was a new girl in our class. When I found out that she had been skipped ahead a grade, I was bugging her every second of the day. I kept thinking that she thought she was better and smarter than all of us, but I was totally wrong. After a while my mother found out what I was doing and had a long talk with me. Then she made me go and apologize to her and give her a chance. I am ever so glad that she had made me do that because after that, I came to realize how much of a wonderful person she really was and until this day we are the best of friends. If you take a look at the teenagers now, they are all hooked on looks. They could care less what you are like on the inside, as long as you look the way that they want you to! We have so many different groups of people in our society today, that sooner or later everyone is going to have to realize that it's not looks that count, but who they are inside.

When I look at all of the peer pressure among teens, you wonder what the world is coming to. As I was growing up, I was always told to stay out of trouble and do

what I feel is right. When I look back on it now, I see that if I listened to what other people were telling me to do, I would be in so much trouble right now. When I was invited to a party once, I asked my mother if I was allowed to go and, of course, she said no! My friends were saying, "Yea, this is going to be fun. Hanging out together." But my mind was saying, "You know that you shouldn't be doing this. Your mother is going to be so disappointed." After I realized what I was doing, going against my mother and letting other people tell me what to do, I got out of there as soon as I could. Then, when I got up the next morning, I was feeling a little bit guilty and then, as the days went on, the guilt turned into a lot. When finally I could no longer live with myself, I went up to her and told her the truth. Yea, she was really sad that I had disobeyed her, but she was happy that I saw what I was doing wrong and left the party soon afterwards. When I look back on that, I realized that if it wasn't for my mother, I could have done a lot worse than just sneaking out. Nowadays, the peer pressure is so much more on teens. They are introduced to all kinds of drugs, alcohol and who knows what else. I am thankful that I knew what the best thing to do was and glad that until today, I am still listening to myself, not letting anyone else decide for me.

Speaking from personal experiences, I know what it feels like to have really bad times in your life and blame everything on yourself. When my mother died a few years ago, I had thought it was my fault. Her death was due to me being such a horrible child, not always being there when she needed me the most. When I was asked to do something, I would have to be told to do it a million times, fighting with my older sister and being hard to get along with. It took me so many years to realize that it wasn't my fault. Thinking that maybe if I went to see her more times while she was sick in the hospital, being by her side more, and the one thing that made me think that it was all my fault was that if I didn't refuse to go and see her the night she died, then maybe she would still be alive today. But then I grew up and started to figure out my life and what had happened. I saw that it wasn't my fault after all. Everything that I had done, any other kid would have most likely done the same thing, and I know that my mother doesn't feel that it was my fault, because every step that I take, everything that I do and say, she is there looking over me smiling. No matter what I go through in life, I know that she has and always will be there for me.

As I look at all the things my mother has taught me, I begin to realize that these are important laws of life and if you take these into consideration, then hopefully you, your family and friends have the best life that the world can offer.