



BBB AKRON

LAWS OF LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

BBB SPECIAL THEME FOR 2027 LAWS OF LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

ACCOUNTABILITY

High-character people scrutinize themselves and welcome the scrutiny of others.

They adopt a transparent style that invites inspection and do not isolate themselves or their actions from others, which is essential to forming transparent, collaborative environments. They place themselves in relationships that motivate self-examination and encourage constructive critique from others, particularly those they serve. (Observable virtues: open, up-front, self-disclosing, transparent).

TYPICAL EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- People do not hide their actions; they operate in the open.
- People encourage peers and others to give them feedback regarding their behavior and communications.
- Job performance is routinely discussed with peers and bosses.
- Peers tell each other the difficult truth.
- Peers sense a commitment to each other more than competition with each other

We ask students to reflect on what “ACCOUNTABILITY” means to them, why it is an important Law of Life, how they learned this trait, and how they have changed their behavior to live up to that law.

Below are 5 essay prompts tailored for high school students, designed to help them reflect deeply on transparency, accountability, and high-character leadership. :

PROMPT 1: LEARNING FROM FEEDBACK:

Welcoming advice and critique from others.

- Think of a time when a teacher, coach, or friend gave you advice or criticism that was hard to hear.
- How did you react at first, and what did you learn from it?
- Why is it important to listen to feedback instead of getting defensive?

Contact

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PROMPT 2: TEAMWORK VS. COMPETITION:

“Peers sense a commitment to each other more than competition.”

High school can sometimes feel like a competition for the best grades, sports spots, or popularity.

- How does it change a school or a team when students decide to help each other succeed instead of competing against one another?
- What is one way you can support a classmate this week?

PROMPT 3: BEING REAL VS. BEING PERFECT:

Living an open, transparent life instead of hiding mistakes.

On social media, people usually only show their best moments and hide their mistakes.

- Why is it important to be honest and open about our struggles in real life?
- How does hiding our mistakes hurt our relationships with others?

PROMPT 4: LEADERS WHO LISTEN:

Inviting feedback from the people you serve.

A good leader doesn't just give orders; they ask the people they lead for advice on how they are doing.

- If you are a team captain, club president, or group leader, how can you show your peers that you value their opinions?
- Why do people respect leaders who admit they aren't perfect?

PROMPT 5: TELLING A FRIEND THE HARD TRUTH:

“Peers tell each other the difficult truth.”

Sometimes it is easier to stay silent when a friend is doing something wrong or making a bad choice.

- Why does being a true friend mean telling them the hard truth, even when it's uncomfortable?
- How can you tell a friend the truth without hurting their feelings?

Students are encouraged but not required to write about this topic; however, a bonus point will be added to the score, and the best essay on **ACCOUNTABILITY** will be awarded **\$1,000!**