



Toledo Chinese School 多丽都中文学校

SPECIAL PUBLICATION

STUDENT ESSAYS

YEAR 2021

#### **Preface**

The Chinese Association of Greater Toledo (CAGT) & Toledo Chinese School (TCS) jointly published this collection of 25 essays for the 2021 school year from the students of the Toledo Chinese Schools. Intent is to share the work done by the wonderful and talented students in our community. So, enjoy the articles and the beautiful pictures in the subsequent sessions.

We offer our sincere thanks to all the students who contributed to the creation of this work. We could not do this publication without you.

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- Publication Volunteers

#### **About the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo**

The Chinese Association of Greater Toledo, established in 1965, is a non-profit organization 501(c)(3) with a clear mission of promoting Chinese culture, tradition, language and business in the region; passing on our proud heritage to the local community; and providing community support programs to the members as well as other groups in the area. We are dedicated to promoting both personal and professional development of our members, creating an avenue for bridging the two greatest countries, China and the USA. The CAGT membership is open to all Chinese and other individuals with an interest in the CAGT activities or a desire to learn about China and Chinese culture and language. The CAGT does not have any religious or political interests and membership is open regardless of origin, gender, race, religious belief or political background. Through our organized activities, significant enrichment will be added to our daily lives. There are several thousand Chinese in the Greater Toledo area involved in business, education, research, or simply visiting. One of the greatest challenges for our group is not only to adapt to the new cultural environment, but also to add the value of our heritage to the local community. With accelerating economic development in China, we anticipate a fastgrowing number of Chinese in the population and an increase in exchanges of education,

business, and cultural and social programs. The CAGT has a natural fit with these imminent changes. The mission and goals of CAGT are supported by our partners such as the Association of Chinese Faculty and Staff at the University of Toledo, the Toledo Sister Cities International and Families with Children from China. Web site address:

http://www.toledochinese.org/index.html

#### **About the Toledo Chinese School:**

The Toledo Chinese School was founded in the 1970s. It was housed in the Chinese Alliance Church and had been Toledo Chinese School Signed sponsored by the parents, Chinese Church, and Chinese community. In the year 2007, the Toledo Chinese School registered as Chinese Center of Toledo (CCT), a Federal 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, moved from Chinese Alliance Church to Maumee Valley Country Day School. This move improved the overall educational environment in the prestigious location, with professional teaching facilities for use by parents and students.

CCT currently has nearly 100 students, 8 board members, and 12 faculty and staff members. CCT is the only institution in Toledo offering all levels of Chinese language classes

for heritage families and English-speaking families, from 3 years old and up. We offer playgroups, Chinese language classes for heritage families as well as Chinese as a second language class for non-heritage families. Classes meet Saturday noon from 12:00-2:00 p.m.

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## Soar, Albert Tsai, Age 8

There was a girl, Mary, who liked everything about airplane. Her dream was to make her own airplane to fly in the sky. One day, Mary drew her airplane design map and tried to make her own airplane. She tried to fly this airplane model many times, but it did not work. She felt

upset. Suddenly, a suitcase dropped down and bonked on her head. Then, a tiny airplane fell down, and surprisingly, a super tiny boy jumped out. At first, this tiny boy was scared to see Mary because he never saw humans before. Also, Mary was shocked to see this view because she never



saw a super tiny boy before either. Since the tiny boy's airplane was broken, Mary tried to help him fix it. Later, the tiny boy realized Mary was trying to fix his broken airplane, so they became good partners to work together. They used different ideas to fix the airplane and tried many times, but it did not work. During that time, the tiny boy looked up the sky and found out his group was flying their airplanes further and further. Mary and the tiny boy felt upset and depressed. Suddenly, strong winds blew Mary's design map away and fell in front of her. Mary

looked at her map and had another idea. Mary used this map as a kite to carry the tiny boy's airplane fly. This time it worked! The tiny boy and his tiny airplane flew up into the sky. He opened his suitcase and took out a star and let it shine in the sky. The tiny boy called this star Friendship Star. He wanted to show Mary his appreciation. All a sudden, there were more stars shining in the dark sky. Mary looked up the shining sky and felt touched. Mary's dream finally came true.

The Rule of Law Is An American Way – Division III First-Place Winner, Alex Ban,
Age 12

Division III First-Place winner in Caty Armstrong Law Day Essay Competition Toledo 2021

Your eyes drift around the world... You see a rich man committing arson, but escaping the punishment because his wealth puts him above the law. You see a poor man being beaten by a policeman just for grabbing some dimes tumbling down to the cement deck in a public place. These are just a glimpse of a society lacking the rule of law. In contrast, in America, a man's wealth and a policeman's baton don't give him more power than a man with nothing. America is a democracy! It stipulates that everyone is equal and should be treated fairly by laws. To make sure that everyone is equal and free, our democracy uses the rule of law to keep social order.



The rule of law protects America from falling into dictatorship, in which a tyrant rules the country. He alone can decide right and wrong, suppress freedom of speech, imprison journalists, and order the police to break down innocent citizens' doors at night and make people

disappear. This is exactly why the rule of law is important! It ensures that no one can abuse their power and it allows ordinary citizens an equal right to pursue happiness and live whatever life they choose. It protects everyone when they voice different opinions. American democracy "requires that our society be ruled by law, and not by arbitrary decisions of the small group of men and women who wield public and private power." This democratic ideal must rely on the rule of law to succeed, so everyone must be accountable.

The rule of law also gives Americans a sense of security. Consider this scenario: A homeless man ambles down a street looking for food. A policeman does not like how the man walks and looks. He beats him and tells the court that the man is a criminal, and the court sides with him. An innocent man is imprisoned. This scenario does not happen in America because the rule of law demands that the policeman explain his logic at court, and the homeless man be provided, free of charge, with a public defender to voice his views. The judge, sometimes with a jury, listens to the testimonies from both sides and passes a verdict based on the law. The rule of law in this case gives equal access to both parties, thereby holding both accountable and letting the law make the decision. In American democracy, the rule of law protects everyone equally. Power pales before the law.

American democracy needs the rule of law to survive. Without it, American democracy may rust and even break down. When people do not have the freedom to speak out, that changes the entire governmental system the founding fathers intended the U.S to have. The rule of law therefore strengthens democracy. We can elect honest people to be government, law enforcement, and court officials, as well as judges, to represent us. They faithfully uphold the rule of law to maintain America's democracy, keeping it strong and healthy.

# How Covid-19 Affected Our Daily Life, Anna Xie, Age 9

#### **Social distance**

Social distancing is kind of annoying. It's not easy to avoid people if they are everywhere, plus not everyone wears a mask. People don't really wear gloves either. Not many people I see seem to care about safety.

#### **Public places**

We can't go out that much; it's not safe. For most public places, we can be only there once in a while now. I can't go to the store. We can't go to parties. It's kind of boring at home.

#### Food

Dad goes out once in a while to get food, he doesn't go out much but when he does, he gets a lot of food. The food goes in the basement for three days, unless it comes in a box. The food goes in the fridge once it's done sitting in the basement.

## We Need the Rule of Law, Ben Liu, Age 11

Imagine that you are in a place where personal power and wealth put one above the law. You and your family are driving to a vacation home and suddenly a car with black-tinted windows purposely drives into your path, causing an accident. Despite that the driver is at fault, he avoids any punishment because he holds a powerful political office. This is what would happen when you are in a place without the rule of law. Do you really want this to happen in America, or do you want to have justice with the rule of law?

First of all, democracy would not survive without the rule of law. For example, the earliest settlers in America from the European continent were ruled by English tyranny. They had to accept unfair rules and pay taxes without their voices being heard. Violence occurred daily because the



English loyalists and the American patriots were treated differently. People lived in constant fear. The American colonists rebelled against the English tyranny and established a democratic nation run by officials chosen by the American people. Under this new system guided by past

errors, officials would be punished like everyone else if they committed crimes. This is how the rule of law protects American democracy and the American people.

The rule of law demands that everyone, whether they agrees or not, and whether they are in a high position or not, obey the law. When laws were introduced to frontier life and gradually enforced, people came to see that the best and most democratic way to protect themselves was with the laws agreed upon by the majority. However, in the beginning of America's western expansion, there were laws but no one followed them, and was accountable to the law. Trains were robbed and people lost homes. It was the rule of law that brought order, settled differences, protected people and their belongings, and people lived in peace.

Under the rule of law, people will feel more secure and peaceful, thus they could focus on innovation and developing new technologies, as demonstrated in the following scenarios. There were two groups, each with 100 settlers. Group A created laws enforced by the rule of law, and Group B depended on self-determined rules individually. In the first week, group A secured new land and used the law to divide the land, while group B fought to gain land. Group A had people writing laws and equal rights for everyone, and they would be held responsible for their behavior

under the law, whereas group B settled differences by physical force. Fast forward a few years, Group A created an economy with democracy and order, but Group B was struggling on the verge of destruction due to daily violence. What enabled Group A to prosper is the rule of law, while the lack of the rule of law led to chaos for Group B.

This is why American democracy needs the rule of law to be successful and healthy.

## **Stop the Anti-Asian Crimes, Donna Chen**

The anti-Asian crime in America has been unacceptable and is out of control. Asians aren't to be blamed for starting COVID-19. The crimes and tragedies will only make the year worse.

Some people don't think things through and blame the Asians for starting COVID-19. First of all, just like animals and any living being and non-living beings, viruses could evolve. Asians didn't create the Coronavirus. It exists in nature.

Blaming and killing the Asians is not acceptable nor lawful way of letting out the



anger and frustration of the starting of COVID-19.

The waves of crimes caused by the hate on Asians have made the society even more messed up. Now that COVID-

19 is spreading, it is a hard time for humanity. We need to cooperate and unite with each other. But the anti-Asian crimes and the hate on Asians has made it difficult. Because of the hate on Asians, Asians have been killed. This is messing humanity up and it needs to stop. Police forces have to be more active.

Some Asians feel sorrowful, worried or even scared because of the murders of Asian people. We all are humans, and we all have a brain with high intelligence that we use to think thoroughly. If we just randomly blame each other and act with violence, that'll just make us like animals. We must raise our voices and stop the anti-Asian crimes!

## Soar, Eileen Chen, Age 8

Soar walked to the edge of the cliff. She had been dying to try out this new paper plane. She gave her paper plane a nice and hard push and it sailed through the air, but it landed on the ground in like 3 seconds. Soar sighed and sat down. She tried and tried to succeed but never did. Just then a little bag landed in front of her, along came a little plane with a small person named Leah. Leah jumped out of her plane. At first she didn't notice Soar, but by the time she reached her bag, Leah noticed Soar. Leah jumped back afraid. She picked up a pencil and pointed it at

Soar. Leah then dragged the bag and turned the plane over, but it broke. Leah whimpered and looked toward the sky. Soar looked too and saw millions of tiny planes. Leah picked up the pencil and again pointed it at Soar. Suddenly Soar had an idea. She took the pencil and put duct tape around the pencils. Then she tried it out, but failed. After



another try of something else and failed. They sat down and looked up suddenly the paper Soar had used at first was blown onto her knees. Then an idea came to her mind. She could use the paper to see if the plane could fly, and she did it. It flew and stayed in the air. Leah surprised that it stayed in the air. Night came and Leah was in the air, when she was high enough, she opened her suitcase and took out a star. When she put the star into the night, all the other stars lit up.

Then she waved her hand in front of the star. Just as Soar was about to head home, the sky lit up with stars one flickered and she squinted. Then she realized it was Leah and Soar smiled.

## Float, Elaine, Age 10

Once there was a dad and a kid. The kid had special abilities to make himself fly. This is how it all started. One day the dad and the kid were hanging out in the front yard. Dad picked up a dandelion and blew on it, but what the dad didn't know was that the kid made a wish. The kid's



wish was to fly. Dad was ashamed that his kid could fly so he hid this secret from the world.

Time passed and the dad got annoyed that his kid could fly, because he was drawing on the ceiling and the dad couldn't catch the kid, so he

made up a plan. The plan was to keep a backpack on his kid at all times and put rocks in the backpack so the kid would not float. One day while the dad was taking the kid out for a walk, he saw kids playing around in the park and not floating around, so he got jealous. He got jealous because his kid was always floating around and the other kids were just normal. When the dad was about to get the kid and keep on walking, he saw the kid in the park. The dad freaked out and rushed into the park to grab the kid. All the other parents and kids where staring at the dad and the kid. Dad got so mad at the kid and yelled at the kid because he wished that his kid was

normal and would not float. The kid got hurt because of the words his dad said so the kid kept his head down and cried.

That's when the dad realized that you shouldn't be ashamed of someone's special ability; you should be proud. So the next thing the dad did was to make the kid happy and let him roam happily in the world.

## Float, Elaine, Age 10

There used to be a girl named Hannah. Hannah had a little friend. Hannah had a big dream. Her dream was to make planes and soar through the sky like a butterfly. One day while Hannah was trying to make planes, a super tiny suitcase fell from a super tiny plane. A super tiny girl hopped out of the super tiny plane to get the super tiny suitcase. When the super tiny girl saw Hannah, she was so scared that she held a pencil to defend herself. However, when the little girl found out that Hannah was no threat, the little girl put the pencil down. When Hannah saw hundreds and hundreds of tiny planes in the sky, she knew that the girl was helpless and couldn't get back to her group. So Hannah helped the little girl remake a plane and get back to her group. The duo tried many attempts but failed. Right when they were about to give up, a paper landed right next to Hannah because of the wind, so they tried another time. This time it worked! The little girl flew off into the night sky and placed the brightest, biggest and most glorious star in the night sky.

## Soar, Elijah Turner, Age 10

On a lovely warm morning, a girl named Penelope was trying to fly a model airplane on a green grassy plain. When her airplane crashed after the first try, she sat at the picnic table with her hopes low and stared at the airplane blueprint feeling depressed. She kept her hand on the blueprint as the wind blew, but she was feeling so downcast that she slid the blueprint off the table and let it go.

Suddenly, a little dainty blue purse descended on her head and fell on the table. She gazed at the mysterious purse. When she was about to explore it, an airplane went past her head and hit the tree trunk, next to the table. A tiny girl named Susie climbed out of the airplane and

fell on the table. She ran toward the purse and tried to pull it, then she glanced at Penelope with fear and picked up the pencil to use as a weapon.

Penelope stood there in amazement and took a picture of Susie with her Pear WePhone while Susie heaved her purse toward her airplane.



When she pulled her airplane down, the propeller and the wings broke! Susie grabbed one wing and felt depressed as she looked up at the sky where there were more than six hundred airplanes moving off in the distance. She looked at Penelope with fear in her eyes and held the pencil to defend herself. Penelope had an idea to fix the broken propeller and wings with pencils and duct tape.

The first try was hopeless, the propeller spun off the airplane. The second try was devastating and worse; the airplane made a nosedive, which was not pleasant. Penelope and Susie started to feel very gloomy, for all the other airplanes were almost out of sight. Penelope sat down just as the wind began to stir and blew one of Penelope's blueprints right before her. She looked at it. Surprisingly she had an idea, so she put her plan to work.

After a little while, Penelope and Susie were done. Susie fearfully got into the airplane, and signaled for Penelope to pull the string tight. After letting the stretched string loose, Penelope watched the little aircraft soar up until it reached all the other airplanes. As it reached all the other airplanes, it was nearly night. Susie felt glad to be with all the other airplanes.

While Penelope was picking up her trash, Susie was starting to open her blue bag on the airplane. She pulled out a large and bright star. As she pulled out the star, all the other people on the different airplanes pulled out their stars. Penelope looked up, then she saw that the brightest star belonged to Susie. Finally, Penelope accomplished her dream of making an aircraft that would soar up into the sky.

## This is Unfair, Emily Liu

Hello, today I will be talking about making my class a better place for learning. Last week during recess we stayed in and played a game called Noggin. The instructions are: you pick a random person; they go around in a circle and when the random person gets to you, someone would ask a history question and if the random person says the answer is correctly then they move on to the next person. If the other person gets it correct, they stand up and move on to the next person. When we were playing it, it was finally my turn. It was me against a sixth-grade boy (A sixth-grade boy that has more knowledge in history than I). We were asked a question and I didn't hear the question. The only thing I heard was that a lot of people died from it and then I instantly thought 911, so I blurted out "911" and my classmates started laughing at me. One of my "friends" started making jokes about me. The most sickening part was my teacher did nothing about it; she just stood there. When my friend Sadie made a mistake, no one laughed at her.

## Soar, Heidi, Age 10

There was a girl who wanted to make a plane. One day, a microscopic boy dropped down from the sky onto her table. He had a flying ship. He needed to fly away again, but his ship was broken. The girl was very confused and surprised at the tiny boy. The boy was afraid at first, but when the girl offered to help fix the ship, he stopped feeling scared. The girl had two failed attempts to fix the boy's flying ship, but she finally found the solution to fix it. The boy flew away. When it was nighttime, the boy and the other small people tossed stars into the sky. The boy knew the girl could see the stars, so he made his star extra bright. The girl saw the star and was happy. She knew the boy didn't forget her.

# The Rule of Law: Holding Everyone Accountable to the Law, Julia Xi, Age 15

American democracy crumbles without the rule of law. Rather than operate the country under arbitrary edicts decided by a few, American democracy is built upon a legal framework that upholds values championing equal rights, security, and economic freedom for all, thereby authenticating an environment conducive to the pursuit of liberty and justice. American democracy is a privilege that can be withdrawn without maintenance. That's when the rule of law enters. It protects American democracy, and guarantees that nobody, regardless of social status, supersedes the law, consequently providing everyone access to equality, fairness, and free participation in social, political, and economic activities. Furthermore, it stipulates that everyone is held accountable to laws.

Democracy made America powerful in a little over 200 years, yet the road to building this democracy was treacherous. Even so, democracy has persevered due to our founding fathers' greatest gift to Americans: The Constitution. The Supremacy Clause, written in article six, establishes the Constitution as the Supreme Law of the Land. Laws based on the Constitution are the only standards by which one's actions are judged; no one is above laws and all are accountable. Yet, humans falter; therefore, American democracy must be defended against those

who would manipulate it for private gains. The rule of law, thus, is called in to protect America democracy. It requires that every person and institution be accountable to their actions without exceptions. Democracy demands fairness for all and the rule of law enforces it.

Without the rule of law, Americans' rights to equality and fairness in social, economic, and political life would be jeopardized. Emphasized in the Constitution is the equal protection clause, which delegalizes race-based discrimination. Race has divided for centuries. For example, Black children weren't allowed to attend school with white children long after the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment set African-Americans free, the 14<sup>th</sup> granted African-Americans citizenship, and the 15<sup>th</sup> gave them the right to vote. Without the rule of law to hold those in power accountable, democracy would only offer empty promises.

The pandemic of 2020 reminded us again that democracy needs defense against bigotry and discrimination. For instance, lately, the Asian-American community, especially its powerless senior citizens, has experienced violence due to ignorance that Asia was responsible for the coronavirus's spread. Without holding those who instigated this wave of hate crimes accountable, more innocent people will fall victims to this senseless attack. American democracy dictates that everyone deserves equal protection in society, but until the rule of law is in place to

hold everyone accountable to laws, this democratic ideal remains an empty promise to many Americans.

In short, the rule of law is undoubtedly an indispensable safeguard of American democracy. Without it, economies would collapse, political power would be abused, social order would deteriorate, and national defense would be weakened. If all these events happened, American democracy would collapse. History has taught that maintaining a democracy is not an affair designed for one person or institution, but the work of one principle, that is, the rule of law.

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## Sky, Karen Chen, Age 14

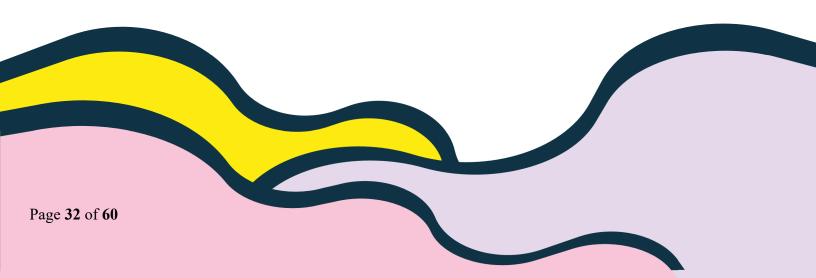
The sky is gray again.

It's such a sad color, the blend of the warm gray from a baby penguin's fur and the light silver from the moon. With hints of black like that of a storm's, I think the sky is beautiful. Beautiful and sad. Thick, rolling clouds the color of smoke and ashes flood the sky. A distant rumble and a crack of lightning, and the wind picks up enough to run its hand through my hair, combing it and tangling it at the same time. A drop of water, glistening and shimmering, plummets onto my face, right below the hollow mirrors of my eyes. A tear, as if the sky is crying for me.

But I am sick of gray and I am sick of the sky. There is too much of that color, I see it everywhere I look. Gray and black coat the surface of everything, as if it were water seeping into a slip of dry paper. The sky, the clouds, the umbrellas, that dog, its leash, those cars, those clothes, my clothes—everything. The pavement we stand on, the casket laid before us, the pale and lifeless look of her skin—I am sick of it all. When will this gray go away?

I want to throw up. I want to curl up into a ball and hide myself away from the world, because no, this can't be reality, this can't be reality, please don't let this be reality. I want to bury my face into her shoulders, let my tears soak up her sweater, release my silent, suppressed sobs as she strokes my hair, whispering comforting words. I hate this, I don't want this, I don't want any of this, please come back. I want to see her smile again, I want to hold her hand as she walks me through the garden, I want to sit in the rain and listen to her stories with warmth and content.

Grandma is dead. She's dead and there's nothing I can do. I cry.



The Rule of Law Protects America – Division II Third-Place Winner, Karen Chen,

Age 14

Division II Third-Place Winner in Caty Armstrong Law Essay Competition Toledo 2021



What is society? Society is a never-ending pulley towards success and we, the people, are the chain that pulls the machine. Then, what is a chain? It's a rope made up of small, silver plates labeled "inside" or "outside," which are clipped together with pins. Put simply, we are the plates, and the pins are the rule of law. The rule of law,

which states that no one is above the law and that everyone is treated equally under it, keeps us in place to form a chain that propels society. The rule of law is important because it enforces justice and fairness, while protecting us by controlling power.

The rule of law enforces justice and fairness in American democracy. It places laws above people and stipulates that no one can break laws without consequences. Those who

violated laws and were charged at court are a testimony to the power of the rule of law.

Furthermore, American democracy demands fairness and heavily focuses on promoting the rights of the people. The Bill of Rights, a section of the Constitution, is made up of ten amendments that guarantee all Americans civil liberties and civil rights, as does the Fourteenth Amendment, which emphasizes that no one shall be deprived of "life, liberty, or property, without due process of law" (1). However, laws are written to guide human behaviors, but human behaviors are unpredictable, and humans break laws. For this reason, the rule of law, thus, acts to enforce the execution of laws and promotes fairness, demanding that everyone be treated equally under the law and that one should not be spared of due punishment.

Additionally, the rule of law restricts power by placing the law above everyone else. This protects us from leaders who become corrupt with power, like Hitler who led the Nazi Party, a group that caused the deaths of 6 million Jewish people (2). Likewise, the lack of the rule of law in Myanmar is what led to the military usurpation of the state's power and created an environment for dictatorship. The consequences are that protestors have been suppressed, people have been killed, homes have been destroyed, and an estimated number of 712,700 people have fled the country since 2017 (4). Fortunately, American democracy has the rule of law to protect

us from such a crisis. Additionally, the rule of law ensures a fair process in which the President can veto a bill Congress passes, but Congress can also override that veto with a two-thirds vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives (5). This shows how the rule of law protects us by restraining power so that no one individual or institution has it all.

The rule of law supports justice and fairness for everyone and protects us by limiting the power of an individual. It is crucial for American democracy. We need the rule of law because without the pins, the chain would disintegrate, and without the chain, who would pull us towards our dreams?

## Democracy Needs the Rule of Law, Ken Lu, Age 13

Imagine living in a world where the president or other high-ranking officials were allowed to rob you and not be arrested. Without the Rule of Law, such a scenario could happen to us. The Rule of Law states that no one, including the president, is above the law and able to do whatever they please, regardless of what a powerful position they occupy. The Rule of Law is important to democracy because it enforces the democratic rule that everyone has a fair share and equal justice in society. Whether one is an important government official or an ordinary citizen, they must be treated equally and fairly in terms of the law. In American democracy, the Rule of Law makes sure that democratic principles are upheld at all times.

The Rule of Law helps to keep our society in order. Where the Rule of Law is effective, the crime rate is usually low, environments are safe, and people are happy. When people understand that whatever they do, they must be held accountable to laws and no one can escape punishment, they will mind their behavior and follow the rules. When that happens, social order improves and people are relaxed to enjoy life. For example, Denmark and Norway are often on the top of the list for the happiest countries in the work. According to the World Justice Project,

Denmark has the highest Rule of Law score with Norway close in second place. This shows the Rule of Law and people's happiness go hand in hand.

The Rule of Law helps to protect people's rights. We live in a democracy, but without the protection of the Rule of Law, we are unable to enjoy the goodness of democracy. Some people want to be treated better than anybody else and some want to use power to serve their own interests. If that happens, democracy will be ruined; therefore, we must have the Rule of Law to maintain order. For example, if our President decides to abuse his power in office for personal gain, the Rule of Law gives others the power to impeach him. Before the law, the President is the same as an ordinary person; none of them is above the law. Democracy requires fairness and justice for all and the Rule of Law helps implement this democratic ideal in society.

A country of democracy, but without the Rule of Law, will not succeed because democracy is fragile and must have the Rule of Law to protect it. The Rule of Law makes sure that American democracy functions smoothly. Without the Rule of Law, democracy will no doubt fall.

#### My Asian Mother, Leo Chen, Age 14

There are a lot of stereotypes about Asian moms like they don't stand in front of an microwave when it's making food or beating their kids with a slipper, but my mother is different in a good and bad way. Instead of beating till their kids cry, then beating more to shut them up, my mother just ignores me the entire time until I apologize. One time I made Mother really mad because I lied about doing my homework even though I didn't do it. Then the next day every time she saw me, she would do a sigh. It got really annoying and I'm pretty sure she did it on purpose. Next the following happened: I had to make my own food and do Khan academy the entire day and even after that she still would ignore me. In the end, I knew I would have to apologize. I knew it would end in crying in some way. In my opinion that is crueler than constant beating the children. So never lie to your Mother; it's not going to end well.

#### **More Mother Stories**

You know how Asian mothers always say that back when they were kids they had to walk 20 miles up a hill, both ways, fight 2 tigers, 26 hours a day on one foot, while the other was



farming rice. This type of stuff reminds me of how my mom said that her classmates and friends practiced piano for 10 hours straight every day. I wonder how many hours are in a day in China because they take 26 hours to get to school and 10 hours to practice. At first my mom made me practice 2 hours a day, but it slowly decreased to 30 minutes a day due to big brain plays. Then the day came that I took my piano tests. I played for 3 judges that I don't think know the definition of "happy". The first 2 songs were ok, but the third one was completely utterly messed up. At the end of the song, I messed up the entire thing, but I still got an 100%. I think they felt bad for me, so in the end I got a perfect score on all 3 songs. The lesson here is that when your Mother tells you to do something, it's probably a good thing to listen or else you might not get a second chance like me.

## Advancing the Rule of Law, Marianne Chen, Age 12

American democracy provides every American equality and fairness in society. It says that in the eye of law, no one is special no matter what. The rule of law is the protector of American democracy, maintaining our society and preventing chaos. We need the rule of law to ensure that America's democracy is protected at all times. I am a 12 years old Asian American girl. I live a



peaceful life with my family and friends. However, I know some people live in the shadows of inequality and injustice. I wondered why those people live a life with violence. Now I know, it's because of the lack of rules of laws.

The rule of laws means no one is above the law and everyone is to be treated equally. Everyone including the president. The president should not be able to disobey the laws. The president should receive the punishment he or she deserves for their actions. Everyone is equal in the eye of laws and

they must be accountable to laws. People in power shouldn't be allowed to decide who was a criminal and who was not according to their own rules. The rule of law is like the lubricant for a machine to keep it running smoothly. Without it, the machine would wear out and break down. Without the rule of law, our society would be a mess. Without its protection, American democracy would collapse.

The rule of law provides every American equal access to justice and equality, no matter their social positions, gender, or race. American history tells us that when the rule of law is not enforced, bad things happen to ordinary people. The rule of law makes sure nobody can hurt others or cause destruction without punishment. The Covid-19 pandemic has created many new situations that we have no experience with. Though we have the Constitution to guide us, we need the rule of law to deal with the change. Society changes, but the rule of law stands to uphold the people's rights and make sure that American democracy is healthy and working.

The rule of law is the backbone of American democracy. The rule of laws makes sure everyone has equal rights and will be responsible for the consequence for their actions. With the rule of law in place, the government serves its people fairly and Americans can live safely.

## We Need the Rule of Law, Mathew, Age 14

The Rule of Law is the only way to run a democracy. In simple terms, the rule of law is concerned with how political power is exercised. The rule of law implies that every citizen is subject to and accountable under the law, which



includes lawmakers and those in government positions. The rule of law encourages governance through democracy created for and by the people, whereas in a dictatorship, autocracy, and oligarchy, governance is through the power of one man or a few men, who is (are) above of the purview of the law. Today, democracy is the most closely aligned with rule of law governance. Building democracy and enforcing the rule of law are mutually reinforcing processes. The rule of law is a critical factor for the advancement of democracy, rooted in equal rights and accountability. By strengthening the rule of law, we protect the rights of all people, advance inclusiveness, and limit the arbitrary exercise of power, the cornerstones of American democracy.

The Rule of law is necessary to keep peace in a democracy. In simple terms, the rule of law is concerned with how political power is exercised. The rule of law implies that every citizen is subject to and accountable under the law no matter who you are. In this sense, the rule of law seems to encourage governance through democracy created for and by the people, as much as it stands in stark contrast to the concepts of dictatorship, autocracy, and oligarchy where those in positions of power and governance conduct their affairs outside and above of the purview of the law. Today, democracy is the most closely aligned with rule of law governance. Building democracy and the rule of law may be mutually reinforcing processes. The rule of law is a critical factor for the advancement of democracy, rooted in equal rights and accountability. By strengthening the rule of law, we protect the rights of all people, advance inclusiveness, and limit the arbitrary exercise of power, which are the cornerstones of modern democracy.

Equality, freedom, and fairness to everyone are the cornerstone of American democracy. However, democracy is fragile because it is difficult for humans to be fair to each other all the time. Thus, whenever and wherever discrimination occurs to undermine democracy, the rule of law will be in place to fight it. It guarantees that every American has these aforementioned rights and protects America from falling into anarchy, dictatorship, and

communism. It helps citizens share American prosperity and live peacefully by providing them with a legal guideline about how to behave, how to act in social and business life, how to arbitrate the conflicts between multiples parties, and how to be lawful citizens. Furthermore, the rule of law also doesn't allow for governments to abuse their power. An authority or government must not use their power arbitrarily. Laws are the only standard by which people should be judged. Otherwise, society will fall into the hands of those who have power. For Example, In Bangladesh, police can arrest people without a warrant, but just on the hint of suspicion. This is frequently used by the Bangladesh police force to pry information out of individuals after arresting them with arbitrary power. Without the rule of law, this practice could happen in America and American democracy would fall.

In short, the rule of law is what protects American democracy; without it, bad things would happen and when it happens, Americans would have nothing to defend their rights and American democracy.

# The Essential of American Democracy: Rule of Law, Michael Lin, Age 15

The Rule of Law is essential to American democracy. It forms the roots of the entire U.S. government. Democracy in Greek means rule by the people (Unifrog). Naturally, people will have differing opinions and there must exist a way to settle things. For example, America has long had an issue over gun rights (Debating Europe), but without the majority's consensus to ban guns, it is legal to own guns and people can even carry them around in public places in some states. Another example, even though the Constitution grants all its citizens the right to vote, yet without the rule of law, members of marginalized communities may be denied the right to vote due to unfair local rules. America is a representative democracy; people freely choose who to represent them in the government. The Rule of Law is the guarantee that Americans' rights are fairly represented and protected, that no one has too much power, and that the government serves its people.

The Rule of Law is the underlying principle that makes American society fair. With the Rule of Law present, nobody is above the law, which means that regardless of social status, everyone is equal in the eyes of the law. That means everyone will receive punishment if they break the edicts, even the President of the U.S.A. For example, on February 17, 2021, U.S.

Representatives Fulcher and Harris breached security protocol and are thus being investigated by Capitol Police (Civic Impulse, LLC.). Congress members have one of the highest positions in the American government and yet they are still subjected to the law and will receive punishments for the crimes they committed. This shows that the Rule of Law is very important in not only ensuring that all are treated equally before the law, but also that everyone is held accountable to the law.

The Rule of Law also prevents people from having too much power. There have been scores of ruthless dictators throughout history and even in the present, but America does not have any. Since any leader is held accountable to laws, they must obey the law or else they will be removed from the office no matter who they are. Furthermore, the Checks and Balance system prevents one governmental branch from having too much power. Thus, no one individual or government branch alone can make legal decision that jeopardizes American democray. The Rule of Law stands in place to protect American democracy.

In the United States, everyone is given equal opportunities. Unlike India's ancient caste system where a person and their descendants could never rise or drop in their social rankings,

American Democracy calls for fairness for all (BBC). American Democracy therefore helps build a better country because it guarantees that everyone has the same rights and equal excess to opportunities to become a leader, a follower, or a spectator. The Rule of Law is necessary for American democracy because American democracy would have been impossible to survive without it.

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## George Washington: My Hero, Michael Lin, Age 15

George Washington was one of the greatest leaders of all time. His career started as an army commander and eventually lead him to be the President of the United States. George Washington was born in Virginia on 1732 (History). He worked his early life on a farm but somehow became a great commander later. George Washington was truly a great leader that everyone should look up to .



He was not some kind of nerd that studied military tactics. He was a farmer who ended up commanding a militia. However, he managed to slowly build up experience and knowledge during his fights. This is an incredible skill! The ability to get better by fighting is like getting better at fishing using hands. One thing we need to consider is that in wars and fights, if you lose you can die. There are always deaths in wars, yet he

was able to go from inexperienced to experience without dying. Also, he lost a lot of battles when he started out, so he wasn't always victorious.

Next, he wasn't only a good military commander, but he was also a great president. He managed to create a democratic government with many talented helpers. They were able to write a constitution and separate power and set rules and limited powers of officials. It is not easy to start a government from scratch. George Washington had to start everything from scratch and make allies. Finally, many people went to war against Britain, who now didn't have a job that the government needed to assign.

George Washington also survived corruption. When people are given power, few would be willing to lose it. George Washington had a chance to be king, but he didn't even want to be president. How is this a huge achievement? If George Washington had become king, America would not have the government it has today. Everything would change and America might not be better than before the revolution. This is because the revolution would only make the government transfer from one king to another. His uncorrupted wise decision set America to the democratic road that Americans love so much today.

George Washington is a brilliant great leader that everyone should look up to and be their example. He was able to quickly learn necessary survival skills, become a great leader, and was uncorrupted by power. Few can satisfy all these conditions. These days everyone has the internet and rarely thinks on our own. This causes people to lose their cleverness and talents when they follow the crowd.

#### Soar, Mingjie Sun, Age 9

One sunny day, a girl found love for airplanes. She tried to build a toy airplane that can fly. She's tried many times but failed. She felt very sad and depressed. She sat on a picnic table. Something fell on her head. The thing that fell on her head is a tiny luggage. Then she saw a tiny Zeppelin and a tiny boy stepped out. When he saw the girl, the girl took a picture of him. He was scared and frightened. He quickly took the luggage and went back to the zeppelin. The zeppelin tipped over, so he gave it a little push and it tipped over again. The boy cried "NO!" The zeppelin broke. The girl tried to help him by using duck-tape and pencil to make him another propeller, but it didn't work. Suddenly the girls saw her plane and put it on the zeppelin, but it did not work. She and the boy were very sad until she saw the paper that she used to design her airplane. She made it into a parachute. It worked! The boy and zeppelin flew into the air. When the boy went back to his room in the plane, he opened the suitcase and took out the star and put it on the sky. The star was shining brightly and the other did that too. The girl was amazed. The boy made the star twinkle. The girl smiled.

The Significance of the Rule of Law – Second-Place Winner, Reina Wang, Age 14

Second-Place Winner in Cathy Armstrong Law Day Writing Competition Toledo 2021

Originating from Aristotle's philosophy, the rule of law has promoted democracy for over 2,000 years. Since its birth, the American people have relied on democratic principles to build their nation into a union where the rule of law guarantees liberty, equality, and justice to every citizen. The rule of law has defended the rights Americans have and has preserved democracy in America.

During the colonial period, King George III ruled the American colonies as a tyrant. He removed the basic rights of the colonists, deprived them of legal representation, and forced them to pay unreasonable taxes, among many other injustices. He viewed himself as the supreme power and subjected the colonists to cruelty. Today, the king's tyrannical rule of the colonies serves as a stark warning to Americans of what would happen to a civil society if the rule of law is trampled upon.

America is a democracy that champions the fundamental principles of freedom, fair elections, and citizen participation. Freedom allows us to decide what we want to do without

infringement on others' interests. A free election gives citizens the ability to vote for their preferred representatives without the intimidation of others. Furthermore, anyone can run for office regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation. Democracy also needs citizen involvement in activities such as voting, paying taxes, and attending community meetings. Getting involved allows citizens' voices to be heard and allows them to interact with their community and country. These principles are what make our country a democracy. Democracy is about giving people the power, but there are always those who may selfishly break the law to gain more. If this becomes a trend, democracy is undermined and might even collapse. That's why we have the rule of law to keep order in our society.

The rule of law has been a protector of American democracy since the American Revolution. Thomas Paine wrote in *Common Sense*, that "in America, the law is king." America must rely on the rule of law to enforce democracy so that no matter how high a person's social position is, he will be treated, by law, the same as a man who is on the bottom of the social hierarchy. All must be accountable to laws. Thus, Paine, along with all our founding fathers, established the tradition of the rule of law reigning supreme, as represented by our nation's Constitution. The rule of law ensures that liberty, equality, and fairness are granted to every

citizen no matter their beliefs or cultural heritage. Only under the rule of law can America prosper.

History has taught Americans the perils of lacking the rule of law. We have learned from our past mistakes, have reflected on them, and have decided that the rule of law is the ultimate weapon to defend American democracy. It protects our rights and ensures that under the rule of law, we, the people, will always enjoy the justice, equality, and freedom that is the essence of American democracy.

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#### Our Memories, Reina Wang, Age 14

There was a point in time, back when I was living in Atlanta, Georgia, that my family and I had three dogs scampering around the house, wreaking havoc on everything they laid eyes upon. Two of the dogs were not even ours. They were given to us temporarily to take care of for a friend, who was "busy" with some "important matters" in his life, which my eight-year-old self did not believe for a second since those two dogs were so hectic that anyone would need a break from them. At first, I was ecstatic that we were not having one, not two, but three dogs in our house. This was the nightmare of every parent, the dream of every child, and I was living it. But it soon set in that I would be mostly responsible for taking care of them. Of course, this didn't make me regret having so many dogs; it was just a mind-boggling amount of work, to say the least.

The two dogs from the friend were West Highland White Terriers. They were constantly energetic and could never sit still, like children who had too much candy on Halloween night.

One minute you could be playing with them, and the moment you look away, they would be on the opposite side of the room, twenty feet in front of you. It always made me wonder how these tiny dogs with such short legs could waddle their way across a room at such a speed. These two,

Benji and Hazel, caused much trouble when we were caring for them. There was one time when we let them out to play in the yard, but they came back and greeted us with a coat full of dirt and mud, so much so that they barely had any white fur showing. Let's just say that our bathtub was not having a good time during that whole ordeal. There was also a night when Benji and Hazel caused such a commotion that we had to get up at two in the morning to see what was going on. Turns out they just felt like howling and barking at nothing for the fun of it. We didn't get much sleep that night.

On the other hand, the dog that we had, a brown Havanese, was not as hyper, but he did not miss his fair share of chaos. When Mother and I were driving through the neighborhood coming back from a friend's house, Lucky, our dog's name, that is, and I were sitting in the backseat. He was standing on my lap with his head out the open window. I was in a state of autopilot, just letting my mind wander, when suddenly Lucky leaped out of the window. I was so shocked that I didn't say anything for a good few seconds before I processed what had just happened and shouted, "Stop the car! Stop the car! Lucky just jumped out!" The dog just hopped out of a moving car! We weren't driving very fast since we were in a neighborhood, but no dog (or human) should be jumping out of a moving vehicle like that! Mother stopped the car

immediately after she heard my shouts and turned around just to see that Lucky was booking it down the street in the opposite direction from where we were driving. The next hour was spent circling around in the neighborhood looking for the tiny brown dog that had run away from us. Thankfully, Lucky somehow found us and bounded back into my arms with a wide smile like he hadn't just given me a heart attack. We drove home, this time with the windows up, and from then on, we learned our lesson and made sure to hold onto Lucky whenever he was in the car.

Even though Benji and Hazel were not our dogs, the two months my family and I spent with them were still memorable and made me emotionally attached, so when we were told that they had passed away, I was quite downhearted. Lucky, after a few more years, also left us. We buried him in our backyard with a headstone engraved with "Our Clover, Lucky". Pets dying are never a joyful thing, but we still have our happy memories with them that we can look back on. So cherish the pets that you have now, give them the love they deserve, and don't take them for granted because one day, all you'll be left with are the memories.

# Sisterly Love, Sophia Pan

Every time I hear about someone's older sister, they're either mean to them or nice to them. I have a mean older sister. She is always lazy and talks loudly on the phone like she is screaming at someone. When I tell her to quiet down, she always says "You're loud too, when



you talk on the phone." But then at least I don't scream as if I saw a bloody body. I don't actually tell her that because I'm too nice for that. I remember when my friend told me she wished to have an older sister, but I said to her "Older sisters are just like listening to a song over and over again, forever and getting sick of the song. Unless they're nice." My friend ignored me after, then she asked if I wanted to play something with her. Sometimes, I have fun with my older sister too, like when I was young, my older sister would bathe with me. However, we would always get disciplined by our mother because something always goes wrong when we're bathing together like we get into a fight, I start to feel lightheaded, and etc. In fact, we don't bathe together anymore because of that and we are also getting older.

My sister is almost graduating from high school with just a few months left, but I'm getting impatient. After she graduates, I'll be left in peace, but then I'll have to deal with my Asian Mother. But whenever I think of my sister, I think of a memory that will probably be in my brain forever. One time in China I was talking to her, while she was playing her game while eating. Of course I knew she wasn't looking or listening, so I got a clean paper towel and blew my nose, so it had a snot in it. Then I folded it up and gave it to her and said, "Eat more, it's good for your body." She ate it because she wasn't looking. I began laughing really hard until my tummy started to burn because I was laughing too hard. My parents said in Chinese "Be quiet." Right after they told me, my sister realized what she was eating. I knew I was going to get in trouble, but it was worth it.

#### Soar, Will Wen, Age 8

One day there was a girl who tried to make an airplane, but every time she tried it, the airplane crashed! Then one day a little bag fell on her head and a little airplane fell on her desk! Then a little person came out of it. The little person thought the girl was a giant and was frightened. The girl noticed that the sky was filled with little green airplanes. Then she noticed that the little green airplane that fell from the sky with the little person in it was broken! The girl used a pencil to fix it up. The little person then knew that the girl was trying to help him. When the little person got inside, the girl threw the airplane into the sky, but it only stayed there for a little bit and then fell down. The girl caught the airplane just in time. Then she got the idea to use one of her work paper and string to tie the string and paper. After that she tied the string and



paper to the little green airplane. Once she finished, she tied another piece of string underneath the little green airplane. Then she told the little person to get inside and used the airplane as a kite! When she let it go, the little person soared into the sky and was never seen again.