

What Are You Thankful For?

Dear Andrew Lanza,

It doesn't matter what your background or culture is, Thanksgiving is a holiday we celebrate in a way that brings family, friends, uncles and aunts together. It's not always about having turkey on the table on November 26. It's the time of year to evaluate our way of living and be grateful and considerate for what we truly have; those things that are often taken for granted.

One thing I'm thankful for is for being alive and still living to see the wonders in the world, to hear the sounds of my heart beating faster and faster every minute and everyday, to taste things in the world that have never been tasted, to be given another chance to fix the mistake I have made.

I am thankful for my family for being by my side when others were against me, for telling me the world is not over, and for always accepting that I'm not perfect. I am thankful for the laughs we've had, for the home, security and opportunities they have provided for me. I am thankful for always them telling me to reach for the stars. I am thankful for my grandmother who past away last year. I remember her putting a hairpiece in my hair and telling me life is not all fun and games, life is difficult but that's life. Life wants to see you crumble down to the floor with difficulties and pain but always enjoy life and live to the fullest.

I am thankful for my friends. Life wouldn't be the same without them. We are like 'two peas in a pod' and no one can separate us. I am thankful that I can call them anytime when I feel distant and they are always there to comfort me and listen to me or give me advice. Thanks to good and bad times we had, the tears we shared with each other and the laughs and memories, as well the fights and arguments we had, we have only made our friendship stronger and more powerful.

I am thankful for the freedom I have that other countries do not. It has cost other people to be distant from their families, and suffer from injuries in battles and wars. I want to say "thank you" to all the soldiers out there who helped or are helping protect those in need of freedom.

I am thankful for my ups and downs, for the accomplishments and the defeats. for the commitment and sorrowness and for the lessons they've taught me. Not everyday will be able to be bright and full of joy, but that just means to cherish those moments even more. I am thankful

for today and my bright future ahead. I look forward to a life full of desire, happiness, goals and challenges.

“Be thankful for what you have, you’ll end up having more.” If you concentrate on what you don’t have, you will never, ever have enough” ~Oprah Winfrey

