

Nina Whitney

One of the most influential and important people in my life is going to leave me soon. This person, who I love so dearly, is my almost 92 year old grandmother. She has taught me many important life lessons, more than anyone else has.

My grandmother grew up in a great deal of poverty. Really bad poverty, to where for dinner when she was younger, she would have to catch her own chickens to kill and cook them herself. Later in life, she ended up having a family of ten kids with the love of her life, and they were both really successful. My grandmother shows how you can come from poverty and turn your life around if you keep working really hard for it. Growing up poor also made her a grateful person, she does not take anything for granted and appreciates the little things.

My grandmother, being the strong woman she is, won her battle of having breast and colon cancer. This helps mold me into a strong woman because I know I am part of her legacy. She has also always been such a positive person, and being around her so much growing up has made me always trying to live towards the positive.

So far, my grandmother has 10 kids of her own that ended up giving her 25 grandkids and 23 great grandkids...so far. Because of making all of those people, she has always made sure that we all try to get together for holidays and make family a top priority. My family is very important to me because I have so many childhood memories with my cousins and brothers. We would always adventure around



in the forest behind my grandmother's backyard and I would never change those memories for the world.

Much of my childhood time I spent with my grandmother is hard to remember, but I do remember a recent memory in particular. About a year ago, I was having lunch with her and my mom. I was talking about cutting my hair and my mom was really against it. Then my grandmother stepped in and told me that I am still young, so I should do it while I still have my youth to be carefree. She taught me to live it up while I can because once you get to her age, there is only so much you can do for change and fun in life.

