All families are different, but they have one thing in common: They have a big effect on our lives. Write about life in your family. (If you live part of the time with one parent and part of the time with another, you may choose to write about either or both family situations.)

Getting started

Choose from the questions below to help you write:

1. What is life like in your family? What makes you a family? How do you all manage to get along?

2. How would you describe your family's "personality"? For example, is it noisy, active, quiet, calm, strict, friendly, loving, formal, informal, etc.?

3. What makes your family special? Do you have special words, sayings or jokes? What are the family rules? What are the family traditions? What do you like most about your family?

4. What values are important to your family? For example, honesty may be very important, or doing well in school. Perhaps sharing time with relatives is especially important, or spending time on church activities. What is especially important to your family? How do you show that it is important?

5. Tell some family stories. Did you ever share an adventure? What funny things have happened to you? What frightening things? Can you describe a family hobby, sport or other activity you enjoy together?

6. Are animals or pets a part of your family? If so, explain. Can you tell any interesting animal or pet stories involving your family?

7. Do you spend a lot of time with grandparents, aunts, uncles and/or cousins? Have you had any unusual, special, funny or exciting family get-togethers?

8. How does your family get all the chores done? Does everyone have special responsibilities? What do you have to do?
Family life is one of the strong glues of our society, yet every family is different from every other family. Describe your family. (If you live part of the time with one parent and part of the time with another, you may choose to write about either or both family situations.)

**Getting started**

Choose from the questions below to help you write:

1. Who do you live with? Who are the people in your family? How do you think your family is like most families? How do you think it is different?

2. Who is your mother? What does she look like? Describe her personality and your relationship with her. What does she do for a living? What are her hobbies? What do you remember most about her from when you were very small? What have you learned from her so far?

3. Who is your father? What does he look like? Describe his personality and your relationship with him. What does he do for a living? What are his hobbies? What do you remember most about him from when you were very small? What have you learned from him so far?

4. Who are your brothers and sisters? Tell their names and ages, and describe each of them. What are they like? What do you like to do with each of them? To whom do you feel closest, and why?

5. Does anyone outside your immediate family live with you? How does that work out?

6. Who is your favorite relative outside the immediate family, and why?

7. If you have stepparents, describe them. How have you adjusted to having them in your life?

8. Do you have stepbrothers or stepsisters? Half sisters or half brothers? How have you adjusted to having them in your life?