



A family's demands in today's society are totally different from the demands of a family from past generations. In today's society we, the children, contribute to the family much less than in past generations. We do much less chores around the house, do not need to work to help support the family, and there is not the same overall respect shown to our elders. These ideals have almost totally vanished in today's society.

Nobody wants to do chores, but work has to get done and someone has to do it. In today's society, the children may help at home, but not like what had been done by past generations. For instance, my grandfather, being the oldest in his family was responsible for his siblings. My grandmother, being one of eleven children, was responsible certain tasks including laundry and dishes. In my mother's generation, children were responsible for certain chores each day. Personally, my brothers and I may help on weekends. Our generation focuses on ourselves, school, sports or other things we like to do.

When my grandfather left Ramallah and came to this country he had many jobs that all helped support his family. He had several paper routes, he was a butcher, and he even became a door to door salesman all when he was a teenager. Amazingly, every penny he earned went straight to the family. My other grandparents also worked to support their families either in this country or overseas. Even my uncle had to drop out of high school to run the family business because his father got sick.

My mother's generation had jobs, and used that to pay for things they wanted. In my family we do not even have jobs and just end up asking our parents for money.

Parents demand good behavior and obedience of their children. Children in today's society like to feel independent and make their own decisions, and parents perceive it as bad behavior or disrespect. I feel parents expect their children to obey them all the time because that is what their parents demanded of them. For the past generations respect, obedience, and good behavior were very strict parts of family life. I think behavior is still an important part of family life today, but it not like it was back then.

The responsibilities of each generation of my family are different, but it follows a pattern where my grandparents were responsible for the most, my parent's generation was responsible for less, and my generation does nothing. Personally, I think my responsibilities towards my parents are to be the best that I can be, do well in school, listen to them, keep all my belongings in order, and help my parents when needed. I respect my grandparents for all things they had to do, and if I were to be more like them I feel it would make me a better person. Learning what they did make me want to do more to help my family.