

***Exercise 1 - Choose a topic that has made an impact on you (truth claim)***

They say that the blood of the covenant is thicker than the water in the womb. Yes, this is the version of the saying that I believe in. Sometimes, there are members of the family who are too toxic for one person. I believe that one should be free to just be civil with certain relatives. Being related to someone doesn't mean agreeing with them all the time. If a friend is too toxic in one's life, we cut them off. Why can't we do the same to relatives? Because of "family"? We have to prioritize ourselves sometimes. Toxic and opportunists of relatives can be cut off in our personal lives, at least. We should always keep those who keep us sane, and let those who drive us too crazy go away.

***Exercise 2 - Rebuttal to exercise 1 with same weight or passion***

Family is the source of life. We are not possible if it weren't for our parents, and their parents, and so on. It is the family that brings meaning into a house; it makes a house into a home. Misunderstandings and arguments rise, yes, but if love is present, forgiveness will come in. After all, forgiveness of self and others is love for self and others. If love is present in the family and in the home, no unfortunate happenings between the members of the family will happen, as long as there is mutual understanding of each other. After all, blood is thicker than water.

***Exercise 3 - Monologue [two aspects of yourself debating (exercises 1&2); one scene, 2 personas, 1 person]***

Families are just people one is blood related to. It doesn't mean that when one is related to someone else, that someone else should automatically be in super good terms with one person. But family is the source of our lives. It's one's first community; one's first givers of love. Yet, love can be toxic, or can it even be called love? Filipino family culture can be toxic. It's like we have to be good and generous with everyone. But isn't that supposed to be what family is for? Being good, generous, and loving? Families are support systems. But really, there are lots of family members who aren't as supportive as how we want them to be, right? We expect them to support

us, and we end up disappointed. Is it because they have a better plan or idea for us? Maybe. Families just care for each other, or do they care when they need you?

***Exercise 4 - Make/create a scene talking about the topic (insert an object that will be used to bring out the topic)***

*Object: gitara*

*Nagpa-praktis tumugtog ng gitara si Christian sa sala. Kumakanta siya ng Leaves ng Ben&Ben.*

*Pumasok si Mama mula sa kusina.*

Mama: Hoy Christian, mag-a-alas dose na, maghain ka na.

Christian: Five minutes pa, Ma.

Mama: Christian, 'pag hindi ka tumayo diyan...

Christian: Ma, sabi mo hanggang alas dose ako pwedeng maggitara.

Mama: Sumasagot ka na ha.

*Kinuha ni Mama ang gitara at binalibag ito sa sahig. Sirang-sira ang gitara, umiyak si Christian.*

Christian: Mama naman. Lagi mo na nga akong pinagbabawalan sa mga gig. Isang oras kada araw na lang maggitara. Tapos sisirain mo pa!

Mama: Wala kang kinabukasan sa paggitara at pagbabanda mo! Tigilan mo 'yang pag-iyak mo at maghain na.

Christian: Ayaw ko na dito. Uuwi ako kay Papa. Buti pa siya naiintindihan niya ang gusto ko sa gitara at banda.

Mama: Anak, huwag kang aalis. Mahal kita. Gusto ko lang naman na maging maayos ka. Walang pera sa banda.

Christian: Hindi naman ako masaya. Aalis na ako.

