

Introduction

- I. What does 'ohana' mean? If you've seen *Lilo & Stitch*, you probably know the answer: 'Ohana means family. Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten.'
- II. The unwavering support of my family has deeply influenced who I am today, shaping my values and appreciation for the strength of familial bonds above everything.
- III. My family has not only shared joyful moments together, but have always stood together in difficult times as well.

Body

- I. Let me give you two examples of the joyous moments we have spent together which makes me appreciate this bond.
 - A. We have frequent BBQ cookouts where everyone gathers at our house to eat together.
 1. As the saying goes, "The family that eats together stays together."
 2. These moments give me a deep sense of joy and a sheltered feeling, surrounded by my loved ones.
 - B. Our first-ever family picnic was last summer at the Ross Dock Picnic Area.
 1. We cooked amazing food, played board games, and spent the entire day together by the Hudson River.
 2. The gorgeous view added to the experience, but the true source of my inner peace and satisfaction was simply being with my family.
- II. Here are two examples where my family has been our support system during difficult times.

A. My brother dislocated his shoulder on the basketball court and the whole family assembled like the avengers.

1. Our whole family escorted my brother to the hospital.

2. I had to arrange for Iftar for everyone.

B. My father fainted and broke his ribs, and it turned out to be COVID.

1. My aunts accompanied him to the hospital during such a time when it was clearly a red zone.

2. All of us had to heavily pay for this decision.

Conclusion

I. So once again, my family's presence in both my joyous and difficult moments have truly shaped my core values, making me a person who cherishes family above all else.

II. I will end with a quote from one of my favorite Disney movies Coco which beautifully sums it up that, "Being a part of this family means you are **here** for this family."