

Books have a way of changing how we view the world around us. Tell us about a book that impacted your world view. How has this affected your life in tangible ways? 500 words 499

I love to read and feel that there are many books that have impacted my world view. I considered countless options when pondering this essay, including obvious choices such as *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *The Holy Bible*. My final choice, a book titled *The Power of Will in International Conflict*, may appear to be an unusual one for a seventeen-year-old-girl. Written by my grandfather, it was published earlier this month. Although this book is brand new, it has already impacted my world view in a significant and personal way.

Although the content of my grandfather's book is extremely complex and will take many readings in order for me to fully understand it, I already view the concept of "will" in a much different way than I did in the past. Learning about this abstract, difficult concept has been fascinating, but is not what impacted me the most about this book. What really changed the way I see the world is experiencing the process my grandfather went through to write it.

My grandfather first told me the idea for his latest book more than two years ago during my yearly summer visit to Virginia to see him and my grandmother. Through the use of the Socratic method, he shared the concept of will and led my brother and me in a thought-provoking conversation about it. I was captivated by the passion he expressed and the complex diagrams he drew out right there in front of us, using some of our input and ideas. My grandfather kept me updated on the progress of his book through phone calls, texts, and emails and two weeks ago, when he handed me my own copy of *The Power of Will*, I almost burst with the pride and love I felt for him. As I reflect about the process he undertook, I realize that his book is affecting my life in many tangible, significant ways.

I've learned the power of dreaming "big" and that determination, hard work, and perseverance are needed in order to achieve anything that is going to make a real impact on our world. I am also becoming increasingly aware of the importance of original thought. I am inspired by the fact that my grandfather developed his own definition of the concept he wrote about and that there is no other book exclusively about this topic.

The way my grandfather's conversations about his book encouraged and cultivated my natural intellectual curiosity is another tangible way *The Power of Will* has affected my life. I can picture myself talking with my future college classmates, professional colleagues, and family members in such a way, hopefully encouraging others' creativity and productivity. Finally, I am learning how important it is to leave one's mark on this world. Writing this book is one of the ways my grandfather is striving to do this and his efforts inspire me to do everything I can to leave my own mark, in my own way.

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Truthfully, it was a concept about which I rarely gave much thought and I certainly never imagined that 400 page book could be written about it.

Determination, hard work, and perseverance are needed in order to achieve anything that is going to make a real impact on our world. MANY steps are needed in order to achieve a goal this big,

including thinking of the concept; developing original ideas about it; conducting research; refining the concept; working hard to communicate these ideas; and making ongoing edits.