

**Mother's Day Presentation**  
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**This first part is exactly what I was looking for. Your views on motherhood from an active mother.**

- I. What is Modern Mothering?
  - a. Every Day my husband comes home and says “how was your day- what did you do?” I always answer the same thing “I did nothing—and it took me all day.” Mothering is the cumulative effect of a bunch of nothing tasks.
  - b. Modern society values tasks and productivity. However, the tasks of motherhood, taken in each little piece are very meaningless- Mother's go through long droughts of productivity. Therefore, it is hard to quantify and value of the day-to-day contributions of mothers. Especially in a modern society which values the bottom line, and quantifiable ends.

It is the Cumulative effect, however, of seemingly meaningless tasks that add up to the most important job in society.

In an office, the one who fills the paper tray in the copy machine is not the one to be rewarded for productivity.

At home, filling the ice tray does not bring praises from family member from afar.

Our society is bad at rewarding and valuing the kind of tasks and productivity of motherhood. This is a modern attitude that mothers deal with on a daily basis.

**(I love this next part)**

**Special note on material possessions- I am constantly threatening to move to a non-materialistic nudist camp (no laundry- little house work). The single largest source of non-emotional stress is dealing with the material possessions of everyday life- constant source of frustration because it consumes all day and it is so trivial, and. it keeps me from the self fulfilling work that helps me stay intelligent, balanced, and able to hold an adult conversation on the occasion that I get to have one!**

**These words and phrases are interesting and can be stated without comment, the audience will react to them:**

II. Words and Phrases of Modern mothering

Here is a list of words that come to mind – in no order- with large meaning open to interpretation in the moment being used.

- Living in the moment
- Unbelievable joy
- Protective love
- Selflessness
- Patience
- Laundry
- Learning- (I'd win the jackpot on Jeopardy through 6<sup>th</sup> grade if they'd let me) as much as teaching
- Sleeplessness and exhaustion
- Definition of my value system
- Understanding and appreciating children
- Homework
- Chauffeuring
- Music and art
- Desire to give my children a happy childhood
- Material possessions- I am in charge, where does it all come from and where does it go.
- Hard work
- Compassion

- Body fat- exercise- I'm taking a nap!
- Organization
- Tons of housework
- Love of cooking versus cooking every night. I actually love to cook and it gives me a great sense of joy and accomplishment to put a beautiful meal on the table every night- now the dishes I could do without.

**I suggest you leave this for last and cover it if time permits:**

III. Conversation with my brother about zero world population growth and Fears of having children

A. I wanted a niece or nephew from my very cautious brother

B. All the reasons he gave me for why he didn't want a child- antisocial behavior, illness, no parental freedom, too much responsibility... and I agreed these are all true.

C. Why it's worth it- yes everything is true, but the risk is worth it. Just like working hard for anything risky is usually worth it- examples are working hard in a career and taking risks for advancements. Working hard to afford and maintain a house etc...

D. Ultimately the responsibility of a child's welfare coupled with protective love- which is so different from romantic love and familial love, helps a mother to define priorities in life, to become a more selfless person, stretches a mother's personal growth and clarifies values. These are the Selfish reasons for having children!- and its what I told my brother. Children are the joy, love, beauty, and all that is natural in the world. They give more that they receive and their gifts to mothers are worth more that the sacrifices of motherhood.