## **NJTL Essay Contest**

by Abeni Perkins

"Which is more important: tennis, education or life skills?" Education is the most important to me out of the three. This is because it can give me many new opportunities in life. That is what's going to help me become a nurse, then a doctor, and then a lawyer. Education can allow me to be successful in today's world. Without it, it is harder to be independent, to be able to take care of yourself, to go wherever you want, and to make some achievements. With education, you can gain the respect of others. Not only that, but people will think highly of you, too. When you look at information about people who do drugs or who drink a lot, it seems that a low level of education is common with them. Just seeing that makes me realize that education can have a huge impact on the decisions that we make. So far, my education has allowed me to learn and play instruments; it has helped me get a better understanding of what's going on around me; and it even connects me to tennis—learning the basics and history of tennis; and to understanding the value and importance of having life skills. I hope to get as much education as I can because I love learning.