



Dear Educator,

The National Fifth Grade essay contest, sponsored by American Mothers, Inc.®, answers an important question for your fifth grade students: “What My Mother Means to Me.” We are inviting the 5th grade students (or home schooled equivalent) in Utah to think about this question and to participate in this contest, by answering it in a 150 word or less essay.

The students that participate in the contest will be judged against other students from within the state. Awards and prizes are given to the first, second and third place winners of the state competition. The first place winner’s essay from each state is forwarded to compete in the national contest. Awards and prizes are given to the first, second and third place winners of the national contest and the national winner will be invited to read their essay in Washington, DC and meet with their member of Congress in April. We are pleased to have hosted this national contest since 2004 and look forward to the coming year.

Information and the entry forms regarding the contest can be downloaded from the American Mothers, Inc. website at www.americanmothers.org.

The essay contest submission period opens on August 15, 2016 and closes on January 16, 2017. All essays must be sent to the Utah Mothers Association at the address below. The Utah winner will be forwarded to American Mothers, Inc. to compete on a national level. National winners will be announced by March 30.

We appreciate your interest and support of this essay contest. It is such a pleasure to receive and read so many wonderful heartfelt essays from the children of this great state and nation. We look forward to reading some from your school.

Essays will be judged using the following criteria.

Was the essay handwritten and does it use 150 words or less (not including the title)?

Does the essay tell the reader about the writer’s mother?

How well is the essay organized and does the writer obey the rules of writing, grammar, and punctuation?

How creatively does the writer use words to say what is intended?

If you have any questions concerning this contest, please contact Roxanne Bilbao, who is the chairman for the Utah 5th Grade Essay Contest. To learn more about Utah Mothers Association, go to www.utahmothers.org.

Thank you,

Andrea Ball
Executive Director
American Mothers, Inc.®
877.242.4264
1701 K Street, NW, Suite 650, Washington, DC, 20006
Email info@americanmothers.org

Roxanne Bilbao
5th Grade Essay Contest, Chair
Utah Mothers Association
435.760.2101

rbilbao@comcast.net

FIFTH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

“What My Mother Means to Me”

Eligible Students: Must be in fifth grade or its equivalent

Title of Essay: “What My Mother Means to Me”

Time Frame:

August 15, 2016:	Contest Opens
January 16, 2017:	Last day for essays to be submitted (postmarked) to state association
February 15, 2017:	State winning essay sent to the National Office
March 15, 2017:	National Winners chosen (National Winners will be contacted by March 30th.)

Requirements: Please be careful to follow all guidelines, as essays may be disqualified for non-compliance.

1. Essay must be handwritten on one side of an 8 1/2 x 11 piece of lined, wide ruled paper.
2. Must have at least a 1-inch margin all around
3. Must be 150 words or less (not including title)
4. May not have name of writer or writer’s mother on the essay page (only on entry form).
5. Completed entry form must be attached to the top of the essay.
6. Entrants may use a dictionary, but essay must be student’s own work.

Judged on: **Content and focus** – How well the essay tells the reader about the writer’s mother.

Organization of essay - How well the story flows.

Word choice and style – How creatively and well words are used.

Mechanics – Obey rules of writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Judged by: State winners are selected by a state team of judges.
Only the first place essay will be forwarded to the national judges.
National judges select the national winners.
Decision of the judges is final.
National judges may disqualify state winners, based on the national rules criteria above.

Winners: State winners: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place receive a monetary prize. The first place winner and mother will be presented at the Utah Mothers Honor Luncheon on Saturday, February 11, 2017. National winner receives a monetary prize and an invitation to the national convention.

For more information about Utah Mothers Association of American Mothers, Inc.®

visit the website at www.utahmothers.org.

If you have any questions about the contest, contact Roxanne Bilbao, whose information is on the introductory page.



TEACHER/PARENT: STAPLE THIS ENTRY FORM TO THE FRONT OF THE ESSAY

FIFTH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

“What My Mother Means to Me”

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY: Essays cannot be considered without this form and parent’s release.

Student Name: _____

Are you in the fifth grade or its equivalent? Yes No Age _____

Home address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Parent’s Information:

Name: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____ Email: _____

I have attached a photo of the above named student or will submit a digital photo upon request. Yes No

Is the student home schooled? Yes No (If yes, skip school information)

School Name _____ Teacher: _____

School address _____

Teacher Email: _____ Phone: _____

SIGN BELOW to verify essay is completely the student's own work and meets the 150 word or less required length and that you agree to the authorization statement below.

AUTHORIZATION OF RELEASE FORM: We understand and agree that this entry will now become the property of and all copyrights will belong to American Mothers, Inc.® (hereafter AMI). The entrant grants permission for AMI to publish in its magazine or promotional materials as well as on its internet site, all or part of the submitted essay and to use the entrant’s name (and photo, if the parent permits). Winning entries, and the names of all the final essay winners, will be used all without royalty or other consideration to the entrant.

Student: _____ Parent: _____

Please contact Roxanne Bilbao if you have additional questions: Phone: 435.760.2101 Email: rbilbao@comcast.net

Release of entry Yes No

Photo will be made available Yes No