



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 your state 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 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 and closes on January 15, all essays must be sent to your state association or the AMI National Office at the address below. The winners in each state will be forwarded to American Mothers, Inc. to compete on a national level. National winners will be announced by March 30.

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

Essays will be judged using the following criteria.

Was the essay handwritten and does it use less than 150 words?

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 cannot find information concerning the American Mothers State Association in your area, please contact the National Office using the information below for assistance in how to submit your essay.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrea Ball", is written in a cursive style.

Andrea Ball

Executive Director

American Mothers, Inc.®

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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 Contest Opens

January 15: Last day for essays to be submitted (postmarked) to state association (or national association in states where there is no state association)

February 15: State winning essay sent to the National Office

March 15: 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: National winner receives a monetary prize and an invitation to the national convention.

If you cannot find information concerning the State Association in your area, please contact the National Office at info@americanmothers.org



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: _____

Are you home schooled? __ Yes __ No (if so, 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 recommended length and you agree to the authorization statement below.

Student: _____ Parent: _____

Please contact the AMI National office if you have additional questions or need your state contact information: 877-242-4264 or email info@americanmothers.org.

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.

Release of entry ____ Yes ____ No

Photo will be made available ____ Yes ____ No