



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 all 5th grade students (or home schooled equivalent) in America to think about this question and participate in this contest by answering it in an essay that is 150 word or less.

The students that participate in the contest will be judged against other students from within your state, and the first place winner’s essay from each state is forwarded to compete in the national contest. The national winner will be invited to read their essay in Washington, DC at our American Mothers National Convention in April. A \$500 Golden Rule Grant will be awarded in the name of the national essay winner to the nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization of the winner’s choice.

The essay contest submission period opens on August 15th, and all entries must be handwritten and sent to the National Office no later than December 15th (postmarked by or sent electronically). Teachers or schools may submit all of their entries together, or entries may be submitted by the individual students and parents.

The submissions will be judged at the state level in January, and the winning essays from each state will be judged at the national level in early-February. All winners will be announced by February 20th.

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 creatively does the writer use words to say what is intended?
- How well is the essay organized and does the writer obey the rules of writing, grammar, and punctuation?

American Mothers, Inc. is pleased to have hosted this national contest since 2004 and look forward to continuing the tradition in the coming year. It is such a pleasure to receive and read so many wonderful heartfelt essays from the children of this great nation, and we look forward to reading the entries from your school.

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

Thank you,

5th Grade Essay Chair
American Mothers, Inc.®
1775 I (Eye) Street NW, Suite 1150
Washington, DC 20006

If you have any questions, please contact us at: 877-242-4264 or Info@americanmothers.org

AMERICAN MOTHERS, INC.®
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
	December 15:	Last day for essays to be submitted (postmarked or electronically) to national office
	February 20:	State Winners and National Winner Announced

Requirements: Please be careful to follow all rules as non-compliant essays will be disqualified.

1. Essay must be child’s own work and 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: **Entries received from a state** with an active American Mothers, Inc. association will be judged by a panel of representatives in that state. Entries received from a state where there is not an active association will be judged by a panel of representatives from across the country.

National judges select the national winner from state winning entries.

National judges may disqualify state winners based on failure to comply with criteria listed above.

Decision of the judges is final.

Winners: All state winners will receive a certificate from the National Office, and state associations of American Mothers, Inc. may elect to honor the winner from their state with a ceremony or award. The National winner will be invited to read their essay in Washington, DC at the American Mothers National Convention in April. A \$500 Golden Rule Grant will be awarded in the name of the national essay winner to the nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization of the winner’s choice.

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

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FIFTH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

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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: _____

If you have additional questions, please contact the American Mothers, Inc. National Office.

Phone: 877-242-4264 Email: info@americanmothers.org

American Mothers, Inc., 1775 I (Eye) Street NW, Suite 1150, Washington, DC 20006

Release of entry ___ Yes ___ No

Photo will be made available ___ Yes ___ No