



Dear School Official,

Each year American Mothers, Inc. ®, a non-profit organization that has honored outstanding mothers across the United States since 1935, conducts a 5th grade essay contest entitled, “What My Mother Means to Me.” We would like to invite the 5th grade students at your school to participate in this contest. The essay is to be 150 words or less (please see below for details). 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. We are pleased to have run this contest since 2004 and look forward to the students from your school participating this year.

Information and the entry forms regarding the contest can be downloaded from the American Mothers, Inc. web site: HYPERLINK "<http://www.americanmothers.org>" www.americanmothers.org/reach.

The essay contest officially begins on September 30 and is not final until February 10. 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.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns. You can reach me at: rdunifon@hotmail.com

Thank you,
Renee Dunifon
National Literacy Chairperson
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:**
- | | |
|--------------|---|
| September 30 | Essay Competition begins |
| February 10 | Final date Essays can be accepted by the teacher |
| February 20 | Essays due from teacher to State Association |
| March 15 | State winning essay sent to the National Chair |
| March 25 | National judging |
| April | National Winner contacted and announced |
- Requirements:** **Handwritten neatly using black ink**, one side only of 8 ½ x 11 inch notebook page.
Use one inch margin all around.
150 words or less (not including title).
Use of dictionary permitted, but essay must be student’s own work
Mother’s specific identity must not be revealed in essay.
Student’s **name must not appear** on any pages except Entry Form.
Completed Entry Form must be attached to the top of essay.
- Judged on:** **Content and focus** – How well the essay tells the reader about the writer’s mother.
Organization of essay.
Word choice and style – How creatively and well words are used.
Sentence fluency – How well the writer says exactly what is intended.
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.
- Winners:** National winner receives a monetary prize

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



FIFTH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST
“What My Mother Means to Me”

ENTRY FORM - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Essays cannot be considered without this form

STUDENT: Print Full Name _____

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

Home address _____

Family Telephone Number: Home _____ Work _____

Parent's Email: _____

Do you attend school? _____ Yes _____ No Are you home schooled? _____ Yes _____ No

Name of school _____

School address _____

Print your teacher's name _____

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

Signed by parent _____ Date _____

SIGN BELOW to verify essay is completely the student's own work; he/she copied nothing.

Student's own signature _____

Parent's name, printed _____

Parent's signature: _____

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

If you do not know your local representative, please contact the National office: 877-242-4264
info@americanmothers.org