



**Los Altos Historical Commission and Los Altos History Museum
35th Annual Margaret Thompson Historical Essay Contest
3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Graders**

**Rubric for Scoring
2019 Margaret Thompson Essay Contest**

There will be a total of 30 points possible for an essay. These points will be allotted according to the following criteria:

1. Your letter has a **greeting** (Dear ...), 5 points
a **body** or main text with at least 3 paragraphs,
and a **closing** (Sincerely, etc.)
and then your **signature** (directly below the closing)

2. Ideas 10 points
 - Establish a clear focus in each of your paragraphs
 - Use descriptive language
 - Provide relevant information
 - Communicate ideas in a creative manner

3. Expression 10 points
 - Use interesting vocabulary
 - Use a variety of sentences
 - Use grade level spelling that does not interfere with your intended meaning
 - Use grammar mechanics effectively

4. Organization 5 points
 - Follow the writing prompt guidelines
 - Group information into the appropriate paragraph