

Utah League of Cities and Towns
Essay Contest
50 South 600 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102
Telephone: (801) 328-1601 or 800-852-8528

Why I Like My Community Essay Contest
Guidelines

Purpose: This contest is sponsored by the Utah League of Cities and Towns to encourage fourth graders and seventh graders to learn and write about the communities in which they live.

1. Public or private school students in grades four and seven are eligible to participate.
2. Students are to write essays about their communities or neighborhoods and what living in those places means to them. Possible areas that could be discussed are the following:

Geography	Community Activities	Uniqueness
Economy	People	Annual Events
Neighborhood/Family History		
3. Although it is not required, it is suggested that this be used as a classroom writing assignment and that the writing process be applied. Teachers should not edit the essays.
4. Length:
 - Fourth Grade—between 250-450 words
 - Seventh Grade—not to exceed 750 words
5. Essays will be typed or written in blue or black ink.
6. The essays will be judged on the following criteria:
 - A. Content relates to the community and the students' views.
 - B. Essay has a logical development, and ideas clearly build on each other.
 - C. Mechanics such as usage, punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure, etc.
 - D. Adherence to the guidelines
 - E. Descriptive quality
 - F. Student voice (**Does it sound like a student, not a parent, wrote it?**)
7. Each essay must have an entry form attached.
8. **ONLY ONE ENTRY PER CLASS WILL BE ACCEPTED!** (If there are three fourth grade classes in a school, then the school may submit only three entries.)
9. Essays are due at the office of the Utah League of Cities and Towns by **March 2, 2015**.
10. First place winners on each grade level will receive \$100 and the school will receive \$1000; second place, \$75 and \$750; and third place, \$50 and \$500.
The ULCT Review Committee will make its final selections no later than May 1, 2015.