



Los Altos Historical Commission and Los Altos History Museum
41st Annual Margaret Thompson Historical Essay Contest
For 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Graders

2025 Margaret Thompson Essay Contest

Rubric for Scoring

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

1. Beginning paragraph clearly identifies and supports essay prompt 5 points
2. Ideas 10 points
 - Establish a clear focus
 - Provide relevant information
 - Communicate ideas in a creative manner
3. Expression 10 points
 - Use interesting vocabulary and descriptive language
 - Use a variety of sentences
 - Use grammar conventions (mechanics) effectively
4. Organization 5 points
 - Demonstrate a sequential flow of ideas
 - Be sure your closing paragraph completes your essay