

## Official Entry Form



School Name:

School Address:

Teacher Name:

Phone:

Email:

The number of essays attached is:

**In signing this I certify that each submitted essay is the student's own original work and we agree to comply with the contest rules.**

Signature of Teacher:

**By submitting an essay, permission is given for Maine Municipal Association to use it for publication purposes.**

Completed entry form and essay must be post-marked by JANUARY 18, 2019 to:

Maine Municipal Association  
Essay Contest  
60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330

### Questions?

Please contact Eric Conrad at 207-623-8428.



## Maine Municipal Association 7th Grade Essay Contest

LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
*begins with* **YOU**



Maine Municipal Association

60 Community Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330  
207-623-8428

[www.memun.org](http://www.memun.org)



Maine Municipal Association  
7th Grade Essay Contest

*If I led  
my  
community...*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
*begins with* **YOU**

## Contest Rules & Judging Criteria

### TOPIC

If I led my community, how would I make my city or town a better place to live?  
Start the essay with the phrase: "If I led my community . . ."

### SUBMISSION DATE

On or before Friday, January 18, 2019

### PRIZES!

#### Students:

\$250 Gift Card for the top three essays

#### Teachers of Participating Students:

Names to be entered into a drawing for a gift card to be used for classroom supplies.

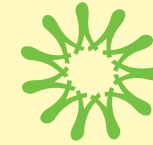
### CONTEST RULES

- Each Maine 7th grade student during the 2018-2019 school year may submit one essay.
- Essays may be typed or handwritten, but they **must** be legible.
- Length should be 500 words or less, and begin with the phrase: "If I led my community . . ."
- One entry form may be submitted with an entire class's grouped essays, but each student's name and the teacher's and school's name **MUST** be in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of each student's essay. This is crucial, as during the judging process, the essays get separated from the group they arrive in.
- By submitting an essay, permission is given for Maine Municipal Association to use it for publication purposes.

### JUDGING CRITERIA

- Understanding of local government - Are the major ideas about the role of a government leader understood by the student?
- Proper use of grammar and punctuation - Does the essay contain proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation?
- Clarity of thought - Is the essay well organized and clearly thought out?
- Originality - Does the student demonstrate curiosity and creative thinking?

## Tip Sheet for Students



Thank you for entering our essay contest, "**If I Led My Community...**" – and best of luck. Here are some things that mayors, councilors and select board members in your community can and cannot do.

#### They can:

- Work with fellow elected officials to decide where businesses and housing should go.
- Apply for grants (most likely from the state or federal government) to make parks nicer, roads safer and introduce programs to serve residents.
- Work with the council or select board to decide how the municipality should spend its money on things like: fire and police protection; street paving and maintenance; recycling; parks and recreation; and, town or city employee salaries.
- Make laws or "ordinances" that discourage people from littering, smoking and the like.
- Recommend hiring key municipal employees such as managers, police and fire chiefs (if applicable), building inspectors and others.

#### They cannot:

- Pass ordinances to ignore or override state or federal laws.
- Give everyone money, fancy cars or free trips to theme parks.
- Make a law that says parents or teachers need to be less strict.

#### Research help:

- The Maine Municipal Association website is a great place to learn more about municipal government before you start writing. Go to [www.memun.org](http://www.memun.org) and click on the "Citizen Education" link in the Quick Links box.



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