

COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH

2018 Student Essay Contest Rules



- **Who can enter?**

The contest is open to grade 9 through 12 students who reside in Mariposa County and are attending a Mariposa County school.

- **When is the closing date?**

5:00 PM, Friday, March 30, 2018

- **How do I enter?**

Essay Background Information: *The basic provisions for the government of California counties are contained in the California Constitution and the California Government Code. A county is the largest political subdivision of the state having corporate powers. The state Legislature vests it with the powers necessary to provide for the health and welfare of the people within its borders. However, most counties perform a broader array of services for its residents.*

Essay Topic: Write an original essay, typed in MLA format, that discusses the types and breadth of work that counties perform for its residents.

Length: **500 to 1000** words. Essays that do not meet this requirement by being too long or too short will be disqualified.

Judging: Essays will be judged on their ability to develop the topic in an articulate, clear, and organized manner (see the judging sheet for full particulars.) Additional points will be awarded to essays that also incorporate the 2018 theme of **“Serving the Underserved”** in an appropriate manner.

Submit your entry by the deadline to the **MARIPOSA COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 5100 BULLION STREET, MARIPOSA, CALIFORNIA**. (Entries must be received by the closing date to be considered.)

- **What else do I need to know?**

- All essays must be the original work of the entrant. Referenced material must be cited.
- All essays must have a completed, and properly signed, entrance form attached as a cover sheet.
- The ownership of any essay remains the property of the writer, however, entry into the competition constitutes the entrant's permission and consent to the County of Mariposa to use, reproduce, transmit, post, distribute, adapt, and/or display the submission in whole or part, without compensation and with or without attribution.
- Determination of the winning entry is solely at the discretion of the judges, and all decisions are final.
- Entries may be retrieved beginning May 1st. However, those not collected by May 31, 2018, by 5:00 PM are subject to disposal.**

- **What are the prizes?**

- Cash prizes: **\$75** (1st), **\$50** (2nd), and **\$25** (3rd)
- Winning essays will be **published** in the Mariposa Gazette



2018 County Government Month Essay Contest
"Serving the Underserved"

JUDGING SHEET

JUDGING CRITERIA

SCORING

- 4 - Superior
- 3 - Excellent
- 2 - Good
- 1 - Satisfactory
- 0 - Absent

COMMENTS

- Strengths • Areas for Improvement

Topic/Argument (40%)	
• Originality	
• Development of Idea	
• Supported by Outside Research/Citations	

Theme (20%)	
• Effective Use of Theme	

Grammar/Mechanics (40%)	
• Grammar & Spelling	
• Organizational Structure	
• Clear and appropriate	
• Language Style	

2018 COUNTY GOVERNMENT ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

(Please attach as essay cover sheet)

“Serving the Underserved”

CONTESTANT NAME:

AGE: _____ GRADE: _____ SCHOOL: _____

TITLE: _____

WORD COUNT: _____

I certify that this essay is the original work of the student named. I also acknowledge and give my permission and consent to the County of Mariposa to use, reproduce, transmit, post, distribute, adapt, and/or display this submission in whole or part, without additional compensation, and with or without attribution. I understand that such use may include public postings, newspaper publications, or social media posting.

STUDENT SIGNATURE:

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME & SIGNATURE:

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (for notification purposes):

(Contest void where prohibited.)