



**Los Altos Historical Commission and Los Altos History Museum  
36<sup>th</sup> Annual Margaret Thompson Historical Essay Contest  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders**

**Rubric for Scoring  
2020 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. Beginning paragraph clearly identifies and supports essay prompt 5 points
2. Ideas 10 points
  - Establish a clear focus
  - Use descriptive language
  - Provide relevant information
  - Communicate ideas in a creative manner
3. Expression 10 points
  - Use grammar conventions (mechanics) effectively
  - Use interesting vocabulary
  - Use a variety of sentences
4. Organization 5 points
  - Demonstrate a sequential flow of ideas
  - Bring closure to your ideas