

**Utah League of Cities and Towns**  
**Essay Contest**  
**50 South 600 East Suite 150**  
**Salt Lake City, Utah 84102**  
**Email: [info@ulct.org](mailto:info@ulct.org)**  
**Telephone: (801) 328-1601**

**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, private, or home-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. **Essays may be written in a computer program that suggests correction of spelling and grammatical errors, but teachers should not edit the essays.**
4. Length:
  - Fourth Grade—between 250-450 words
  - Seventh Grade—not to exceed 750 words
5. **7<sup>th</sup> grade essays must be typed. 4<sup>th</sup> grade essays should 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade essay must be submitted electronically as a PDF file. 4<sup>th</sup> grade essays may be submitted electronically as a PDF file or mailed. All entries must include the entry form.

Electronic submissions should be emailed to [swood@ulct.org](mailto:swood@ulct.org) . Mailed submissions should be addressed to the ULCT address listed above.
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 7, 2019.**
10. First place winners on each grade level will receive \$100 and the school (public, private, parochial, or charter) 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 7, 2019 and will be announced by the end of the traditional school year.**