Guidelines for
Silicon Valley Reads Essay Contest 2019
Theme: Finding Identity in Family History

The competition is open to public school students, 6th through 8th grade, in Santa Clara County. This year’s theme of “Finding Identity in Family History” encourages students to learn about their family history and how it relates to who they are, their identity.

ELIGIBILITY

- All 6th through 8th grade students in Santa Clara County Public, Private, and Charter schools are eligible to participate.
- Submissions are limited to one essay per student, and up to 12 submissions per school.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All submissions will be digital. We ask that only one essay submission be made per student, with a 12 submission limit per school.

Submissions will be done through the Silicon Valley Reads Essay Submission Form found on siliconvalleyreads.org and will be available February 11 to March 11, 2019.

Students will respond to one of three prompts available on the essay submission form.

- Write a story about your family life. Describe who was important to you growing up and why.
- How do you define “Family”? Write your definition of family, what it means to you, and why.
- How much do you know about your family history? Write about an interesting time or event from your family history.

Essay format:

- Arial, 12 font size
- Double-spaced
- 500-750 words

ESSAY SELECTION

Winners will be announced online at siliconvalleyreads.org on March 29, 2019.

Judging Criteria for Essay Selection. Submissions will be judged on the following (not in order of priority):

1. Structure
   a. Organization appropriate to genre
   b. Lead that interests the reader
   c. Ending that brings closure

2. Development
   a. Craft/Word Choice
   b. Elaboration

3. Language Conventions

For further details, please contact Barb Flores (Barb_Flores@sccoe.org)