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 postmarked by JANUARY 17, 2020 to:

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

Questions?
Please contact Eric Conrad at 207-623-8428.
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 17, 2020

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 2019-2020 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?

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 and click on the “Citizen Education” link in the Quick Links box.