

# Olde Yakima Letterpress Museum

501 (c) (3) not for profit organization  
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## 2019 SAMUEL CLEMENS ESSAY CONTEST

### Official Rules and Eligibility

#### *Eligibility:*

Essay contest is open to all Middle School Students in Grades 6, 7 and 8: Public, Private or Parochial in Washington State: cities, towns and unincorporated areas. Home schooled children may also compete.

#### *Rules:*

Each essay **MUST** start out with the phrase: ***“Samuel Clemens is a role model because”***.

According to Sociologist Robert K. Merton, a role model “is a person whose behavior, example or success can be emulated by others, especially by younger people”. Based on this definition, explain how Sam Clemens’ life continues to offer an example of being a role model to young people.

In your essay include at least two examples from Mr. Clemens life which support the claim that Clemens is a role model. Conclude your essay with a personal reflection on why or how Sam Clemens’ life inspires you to persevere, discover, innovate or lead.

We will accept typed or computer generated essays, single spaced, in English, on the front side of not more than two - 8 ½” x 11” sheets of paper. Essays must contain a minimum of 250 and not more than 400 words. Your essay must be your own original work. A parent, teacher, or other leader must initial the line on the entrance form to certify she/he has read your essay. Parent or Guardian must sign the entrance form, giving permission for the student to enter the contest and participate in any media coverage.

#### *Timeline:*

***Essays will be accepted beginning October 1, 2018 but must be postmarked not later than February 18, 2019 and mailed to: Olde Yakima Letterpress Museum, P. O. Box 10477, Yakima, WA 98909-1477. We suggest you keep a copy for your records.***

#### *Judging:*

Essays meeting the rules and eligibility requirements will be judged by a committee formed by Olde Yakima Letterpress Museum. Winners will be selected based upon the following criteria:

1. Essay must be well organized, legible and demonstrate clarity and conciseness.
2. Essay must show insight into the subject.

Judging Committee Co-chairs will be Mr. Tim Chase and Ruth M. Bishop, DO, MPH. The decisions of the judges shall be final. Essays will be the property of Olde Yakima Letterpress Museum. We reserve the right not to issue all 9 prizes.

***Awards:*** Teacher/Leader/Parent will be notified of winners by email or telephone by March 2, 2019.

First place essay winners will receive a personalized letterpress certificate, photo with Mark Twain and three tickets to An Evening with Mark Twain on Saturday, March 23, 2019, 6:30 p.m. at Yakima Foursquare Church. and a \$250.00 check. Each grade level, 6th, 7th, and 8th is eligible for a first place prize.

Second and third place essay winners will receive a personalized letterpress certificate, photo with Mark Twain, and three tickets to An Evening with Mark Twain on Saturday, March 23, 2019, 6:30 p.m. at Yakima Foursquare and a \$150.00 check. Each grade level, 6th, 7th and 8th is eligible for these prizes.

Best over-all essay winner (accompanied by parent/guardian) will receive two nights lodging at Best Western Ahtanum Inn, Union Gap, Washington, March 22 and 23th, 2019.

For essays which show merit but do not win 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place standing, a Certificate of Achievement will be awarded at An Evening with Mark Twain plus two tickets to the March 23, 2019 performance.

The first 400 middle school students who submit an essay that meets eligibility and rules, with a postmarked date of February 18, 2019 or before, will receive a museum T shirt. Make sure that your name, school address, school, telephone number and T shirt size are plainly marked. Include check-off sheet with Contest Entry.

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[www.OldeYakimaLetterpressMuseum.org](http://www.OldeYakimaLetterpressMuseum.org)  
[www.LetterpressEssayContest.org](http://www.LetterpressEssayContest.org)