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)