



National PTA® Reflections

Official Rules



By entering the “National PTA Reflections Program,” entrants accept and agree to be bound by these Official Rules as well as the entry requirements for their specific arts category and division. Any violation of these rules may, at PTA’s discretion, result in disqualification. All decisions of the judges regarding this program are final and binding in all respects. (The “PTA” referred to in these rules include all PTAs reviewing the entry).

- 1. ELIGIBILITY.** Students must participate through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing. Parent groups not affiliated with National PTA are not eligible to sponsor this program. It is the responsibility of the state and local PTA/PTSA to determine each student’s eligibility in the National PTA Reflections® Program. A student may develop an entry in or outside of school.
- 2. ARTS CATEGORIES.** There are six arts categories – dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. Students may enter the National PTA Reflections Program in one or more arts categories. See each Arts Category Rules for additional entry requirements.
- 3. GRADE DIVISIONS.** Students may enter in the appropriate division for their grade (Primary: Preschool-Grade 2; Intermediate: Grades 3-5; Middle School: Grades 6-8; High School: Grades 9-12; Special Artist: All grades welcome). If students do not fall under specific grade divisions, National PTA suggests they be grouped by age (Primary: Up to age 7; Intermediate: Ages 8-10; Middle School: Ages 11-13; High School: Ages 14+; Special Artist: All ages welcome). See Special Artist Division Rules for entry requirements.
- 4. HOW TO ENTER.** Entrants must submit their artwork and student entry form to their local PTA/PTSA program according to local and state PTA procedures. Entrants must follow requirements and instructions specific to each arts category and division. Contact local PTA programs for deadlines and additional information.
- 5. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.** (All participants must also follow Arts Category and Division Rules)
 - Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the current year’s theme may be submitted.
 - Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student’s work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student’s individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed except in the Special Artist Division. Only one student may be recognized as the award recipient for each entry. Other individuals may appear in or perform a student’s work, but the work itself must be the creative product of one student only. *See the specific Arts Category Rules for details.*
 - Each entry must contain a title and all entries must include an artist statement. The artist statement communicates what inspired the work, how it relates to the theme, and the content of the work. The statement must include at least one sentence, but may not exceed 100 words.
 - Use of copyrighted material is prohibited, except for recorded music in dance choreography and film production entries. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. Use of PowerPoint presentations are prohibited because most graphic elements are copyrighted.
- 6. FINALIST SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION.** Entries are reviewed at local, regional, state and national levels. Each PTA determines its own judges for the program. Entries will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity. The National PTA Reflections® program makes no restrictions on content or subject matter in artwork. Under no condition may parents or students contact the judges to dispute the status of any entry.

Awards are announced according to local and state procedures. National award recipients are notified via email by National PTA in **May 1, 2017**. The PTA in its sole discretion will select finalists for exhibition and provide awards/prizes. Visit PTA.org/Reflections for more information on Exhibitions and awards.
- 7. OWNERSHIP AND LICENSE.** Ownership in any submission shall remain the property of the entrant, but entry into this program constitutes entrant’s irrevocable permission and consent that PTA may display, copy, reproduce, enhance, print, sublicense, publish, distribute and create derivative works for PTA purposes. PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged entries. Submission of entry into the PTA Reflections program constitutes acceptance of all rules and conditions.
- 8. PARTICIPATING ENTITIES.** This program is administered by the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and PTA affiliates.
- 9. STATE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS.** Contact your State PTA for additional requirements.



National PTA® Reflections

Special Artist Division Rules



ELIGIBILITY. The National PTA Special Artist Division is an option for students with disabilities who receive services under IDEA or Section 504 to have the opportunity and accommodations they may need in order to participate fully in the program. The Special Artist Division offers modified rules and guidelines to ensure that every student has the chance to be part of the National PTA Reflections® program.

Who qualifies as a disabled individual under the law? The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines an individual with a disability as a person who: (1) Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of that person; (2) Has a record of such an impairment; or (3) Is regarded as having such impairment.

HOW TO ENTER. Students who identify as having a disability have two ways to enter the National PTA Reflections® Program. All students may enter in only one division. Student Entry Form requires parent/legal guardian signatures.

Option 1. Enter in Grade-Level Divisions: Regardless of age, students with special needs may enter in the grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities. Students may not receive assistance other than that which is allowed for all children. The divisions are as follows: Primary (preschool – grade 2); Intermediate (grades 3-5); Middle School (grades 6-8); High School (grades 9-12). Students are recognized and awarded prizes as part of the general student population without regard to special needs or challenges.

Option 2. Enter in Special Artist Division: Eligible students entering the Special Artist Division create their own artwork, but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult. Students are recognized and awarded prizes as part of the Special Artist Division.

SPECIAL ARTIST GUIDELINES. Special artists should follow the general rules and guidelines outlined in the arts category student rules specific to their submissions, modified only by accommodations for individuals with disabilities. The accommodation, in general, should be both specific and limited to the student's disability.

Allowable Accommodations: Given the diverse range of physical and mental disabilities that exist, it would be impossible to outline specific accommodations for each and every disability, but the following provides a non-exhaustive list of allowable accommodations:

- The Special Artist Division will not be divided by age or traditional school grade level.
- Use of adaptive technology is allowed.
- All submissions must be solely created by the special artist. However, a parent, teacher or other adult may assist the special artist with typing, holding a camera, etc.

Accommodations that are Not Allowed: Individuals providing assistance to special artists may not, in any way, involve themselves in the actual artistic process by:

- Personally selecting a title for artwork.
- Writing, editing or interpreting a student's artist statement, story, poetry or script.
- Choreographing a dance, composing music or writing lyrics.
- Drawing, painting or personally creating a visual arts submission, choosing a camera angle, etc.

The Special Artist Division of the National PTA Reflections® program is optional at state and local levels. Please check with your state PTA regarding availability in your state of residence.



National PTA® Reflections

Summary of Rules for Participation



Students must participate through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing and may enter in one or more arts categories. Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted. Each entry must be the original work of one student only. Only one student may be recognized as the award recipient for each entry. Other individuals may appear in or perform a student's work, but the work itself must be the creative product of one student. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited, except for background music in dance choreography and film production entries when cited. Entries will be judged on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity.



Dance Choreography. Accepted styles include solo/ensemble include: ballet, contemporary, ethnic and folk, hip hop, jazz and tap. Choreographer may be the performer, or one of the performers, but does not have to be. Video recording must not exceed 5 minutes and must be less than 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size. Accepted file formats include: AVI, Quicktime (.mov), MPEG (.mpg, .mpeg, .mp4), Windows Media (.wmv), and Flash Video (.flv, .f4v).



Film Production. Accepted forms include: Animation, narrative, documentary, experimental, or a media presentation (PowerPoint is prohibited). Entrant must be the director, screenwriter, and camera person including all storyboarding and editing. Video recording must not exceed 5 minutes and must be less than 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size. Accepted file formats include: AVI, Quicktime (.mov), MPEG (.mpg, .mpeg, .mp4), Windows Media (.wmv), and Flash Video (.flv, .f4v).



Literature. Accepted forms of fiction and nonfiction include: Prose, poetry, drama (screen play and play script), reflective essay, narrative, and short story. Entry must not exceed 2,000 words and must be handwritten or typed; one side only. Students for whom English is not their first language may submit literature entries in their own language. An interpretive translation in English must accompany the entry. Accepted formats include: Single-sided print on 8 ½ x 11 paper, or PDF (.pdf) file format.



Music Composition. All instruments, sounds, styles and combinations are accepted. Copyrighted material is prohibited. The composer may be the performer, or one of the performers, but does not have to be a performer. Notation, score or tablature is required for middle and high school division. Audio recording must not exceed 5 minutes. Accepted file formats include: MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC (M4A) and FLAC formats. Music videos are **not** accepted.



Photography. Accepted forms of photography include: A single photo, panoramic, photomontage (one seamless print of multiple original photos), a multiple exposure, negative sandwich or photogram. Original black-and-white and color images are accepted. Entrant must be the one to take the photograph. Must be mounted or matted on cardboard matte, poster board, or other sturdy material. Accepted formats include: Matted print, or high resolution digital photo (.jpeg, .jpg, .gif, .png, .bmp).



Visual Arts. Accepted forms include: Architecture (2D/3D), carpentry, ceramics, collages, photographic collages (multiple photos cut/pasted), computer-generated image, crafts, design, dioramas, drawing, fiber work, jewelry, kites, metal etching/punch work, mobiles, painting, printmaking, sculpture and wind chimes. Framed entries not accepted. Paper entries must be mounted on sturdy material and 3D works must include packaging materials and 3 high resolution photos of the entry for judging and ID purposes.

Submit Student Entry Form & Artwork to:

Deadline for Entry:

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National PTA® Reflections

Dance Choreography Rules



DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY is the act of creating movement. The **choreographer** (student submitting entry) may be the performer or one of the performers, but the choreographer does not have to perform in the entry.

2016-2017 Theme: *What Is Your Story?*

Consider the following styles and ensembles to portray your original choreography: Ballet, contemporary, ethnic and folk, freestyle, hip hop, jazz, street dance, and tap.

Originality: Only new and original choreography inspired by the theme may be submitted. Each entry must be the work of one student only.

Consider use of background song(s), props and the location to show a clear relation of the dance choreography to the theme. An explanation of the origin of the dance and/or the significance of the choreography might be a useful addition to the artist statement when submitting a dance choreography entry that involves traditional, cultural or regional dances. Whether an entry displays formal dance technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. Use of background music must be cited on the student entry form.

Presentation: Video must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size.

Ideas for Audio/Visual Quality: Use a tripod to hold the camera still. Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if shooting indoors. Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.). Record a short test and watch it. If needed, change the record volume or microphone location. Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording. Allow for two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your recording.

Packaging:

- Accepted video file formats include: AVI, MOV, MPG, MPEG, MP4, WMV, FLV and F4V.
- Label video file and CD/USB Drive with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name (*Example: PA.DANCE.PRI.SMITH.JOHN*)
- Submit dance video and student entry form according to your PTA's instructions.

State Specific Instructions: Students must follow state specific requirements and instructions.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.



National PTA® Reflections

Film Production Rules



FILM PRODUCTION is the process of making a film. The **producer** (student submitting the entry) is not required to appear in the film but if the student chooses to, a camera tripod may be used. All screenwriting, directing, camera/filming and editing must be done by the student producer. **PowerPoint presentations are prohibited.**

2016-2017 Theme: *What Is Your Story?*

Consider the following styles to portray your original work of fiction or nonfiction:

- Animation: Demonstrates motion by sequencing still objects or using computer-generated graphics.
- Narrative: Tells a fictional story developed by the student.
- Documentary: Presents facts and information.
- Experimental: Explores movement, light and montage.
- Multimedia: Uses a combination of different contents (text, audio, still images, animation, etc.).

Originality: Only new and original videos inspired by the theme may be submitted. Each entry must be the original work of one student only.

An explanation of the storyline and/or the significance of the film style might be a useful addition to the artist statement. Whether an entry displays use of technologies or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity. *Software used to create an entry should only enhance and present the work, not provide the primary design.*

Copyright: Entry may include public places, well-known products, trademarks or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is nonessential to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. Use of background music must be cited on the student entry form.

Presentation: Video must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size.

Ideas for Audio/Visual Quality: Use a tripod to hold the camera still. Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if indoors. Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.). Record a short test and watch it. If needed, change the record volume or microphone location. Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording. Allow for two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your recording.

Packaging:

- Accepted video file formats include: AVI, MOV, MPG, MPEG, MP4, WMV, FLV and F4V.
- Label video file and CD/USB Drive with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name (*Example: PA.DANCE.PRI.SMITH.JOHN*)
- Submit video and student entry form according to your PTA's instructions.

State Specific Instructions: Students must follow state specific requirements and instructions.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.



National PTA® Reflections

Literature Rules



LITERATURE is the art of writing. The **author** (student submitting entry) is a person who expresses their own thoughts and ideas through the use of words. Authors submit a single literary work, handwritten or typed, using grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation and spelling. Collections of literary work (such as poems and short stories) are not accepted.

2016-2017 Theme: *What Is Your Story?*

Consider the following literary styles to portray your original work of fiction or nonfiction: Prose, poetry, drama (screen play and play script), reflective essay, narrative, or short story.

Originality: Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted. Each entry must be the work of one student only.

An explanation of the storyline and/or the significance of the literature style might be a useful addition to the artist statement. Whether an entry displays formal writing technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity. Spoken word audio recordings and illustrated entries including books with pictures drawn by the student author are acceptable; however, only literary content is judged.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified.

Presentation: Entry may be hand written or typed. Writing must not exceed 2,000 words.

Acceptable Use of Type, Dictation and Translation

- Be typed by another person as long as the original work or a copy of the original work is attached.
- Be dictated to another person and printed or typed in exact words as spoken by the student if the student is in pre-school, kindergarten or 1st grade. (Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student's original work).
- Students for whom English is not their first language may submit literature entries in their own language. **An interpretive translation in English must accompany the entry.** Translators should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student's original work.

Packaging:

- Print Format: Number each page. Print on 8.5x11 paper (one sided only).
- Electronic Format: Save/scan word document as a single PDF. Label file with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name (*Example: PA.DANCE.PRI.SMITH.JOHN*)
- Label Cover Page/CD/USB Drive with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name. Submit literature and student entry form according to your PTA's instructions.

State Specific Instructions: Students must follow state specific requirements and instructions.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.



National PTA® Reflections

Music Composition Rules



MUSIC COMPOSITION is the process of creating a new piece of music. The **composer** (student submitting entry) is a person who expresses their own thoughts and ideas through the use of sound. The student composer may submit an entry performed by an individual or group and/or make use of a sound library generated performance of a composed score. Student composers are not required to perform their composition. *Middle and high school grade divisions require music score/tablatore/notation, either traditional or tablatore.*

2016-2017 Theme: *What Is Your Story?*

Consider the following musical styles and instruments to portray your original composition: A cappella, blues, choral, country, electronic, hip hop, jazz, world music, musical, orchestral, pop, R&B, religious, rock, symphonic/concert band and traditional.

All instruments, sounds, styles and combinations are accepted. Software may be used to produce an audio recording that does not include commercially pre-programmed imported MIDI or other source files. Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted. An explanation of the origin of the music and/or the significance of the music style might be a useful addition to the artist statement when submitting a music composition that involves traditional, cultural or regional instruments. Whether an entry displays formal composition technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity.

Originality: Only new and original songs inspired by the theme may be submitted. Each entry must be the work of one student only.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified.

Presentation: Audio must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size. Videos are not accepted.

Ideas for Audio Quality: Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument(s) or speakers. Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.). Record a short test and listen to it. If needed, change the record volume or microphone location. Allow for two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your recording.

Notation & Score Required for Middle School & High School Divisions Only. Notation software may be used to create a score. Whether the score is handwritten or computer-generated, appropriate instrumentation and voicing are required for the performance. Number each page. Print on 8.5x11 (one sided only) or save/scan score as a single PDF.

Packaging:

- Accepted audio file formats include: MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC (M4A) and FLAC.
- Label audio file, notation/score (*if applicable*) and CD/USB Drive with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name (*Example: PA.DANCE.PRI.SMITH.JOHN*)
- Submit music composition and student entry form according to your PTA's instructions.

State Specific Instructions: Students must follow state specific requirements and instructions.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.



National PTA® Reflections

Photography Rules



PHOTOGRAPHY is the process of creating an image. The **photographer** (student submitting entry) is a person who captures their own thoughts and ideas with a camera. By focusing on objects using various lenses, filters and light sources, photographers may demonstrate the use of photographic techniques conventionally or digitally.

2016-2017 Theme: *What Is Your Story?*

Accepted forms of photography include: A single photo, panoramic, photomontage (one seamless print of multiple original photos), a multiple exposure, negative sandwich or photogram. Original black-and-white and color images are accepted. **Non-accepted forms of photography include:** Entries with added graphics over the image, including lettering, are not accepted. Original film (negatives or transparencies) and multidimensional pieces are not accepted.

Originality: Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted. Each entry must be the work of one student only.

Consider use of objects, lighting and the location to show a clear relation of the photo to the theme. An explanation of the photography process/form might be a useful addition to the artist statement. Whether an entry displays use of technologies or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material, including copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material, is not acceptable in any photography submission, with the following exception:

Photographs may include public places, well-known products, trademarks or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. The resulting work cannot try to establish an association between the student and the trademark/business/material, or influence the purchase/non-purchase of the trademarked good.

Presentation: Framed photos are not accepted. Matting is accepted.

- Print Photo: Must not exceed 11x14 inches, including matting. Mount on sturdy material such as cardboard or poster board.
- Digital Photo: Must be high resolution (300 dpi or higher).

Packaging:

- Label back of print and digital photo file with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name (*Example: PA.DANCE.PRI.SMITH.JOHN*).
- Submit photography and student entry form according to your PTA's instructions.

State Specific Instructions: Students must follow state specific requirements and instructions.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.



National PTA® Reflections

Visual Arts Rules



VISUAL ARTS include many art forms that are visual in nature. The **artist** (student submitting entry) is a person who captures their own thoughts and ideas to create a visual piece of art.

2016-2017 Theme: *What Is Your Story?*

Accepted forms of visual art include: Architecture (2D/3D), carpentry, ceramics, collages, photographic collages (multiple photos cut/pasted), computer-generated image, crafts, design, dioramas, drawing, fiber work, jewelry, kites, metal etching/punch work, mobiles, painting, printmaking, sculpture and wind chimes.

Originality: Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted. Reproductions or enlargements of other artwork are not accepted. Each entry must be the original work of one student only.

An explanation of the art form might be a useful addition to the artist statement. Whether an entry displays use of formal technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material, including any copyrighted cartoon characters or likeness thereof, is not acceptable in any visual arts submission, with the following exceptions:

- Visual artwork may include public places, well-known products, trademarks or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. The resulting work cannot try to establish an association between the student and the trademark/business/material, or influence the purchase/non-purchase of the trademarked good.
- Visual arts collages may include portions of existing copyrighted works, such as photographs, magazine clippings, internet images and type cut out of a newspaper, as long as those portions of copyrighted works are used to create a completely new and different work of art.

Presentation: Framed artwork and artwork containing loose materials is not accepted. Matting is accepted.

- **2D artwork (e.g. painting)** Dimensions must not exceed 24x30 inches, including matting. Paper entries must be mounted on sturdy material.
- **3D artwork (e.g. sculpture)** Must be able to move for display purposes. Must include packaging materials and 3 photos of the entry (a combination of angles) for judging, ID and exhibition purposes (entries that require assembling/repairing from transporting will be disqualified).
- Digital photo(s) of artwork: Must be high resolution (300 dpi or higher).

Packaging:

- Label back of artwork and photo file(s) with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name (*Example: PA.DANCE.PRI.SMITH.JOHN*).
- Submit artwork and student entry form according to your PTA's instructions.

State Specific Instructions: Students must follow state specific requirements and instructions.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.