



National PTA Reflections® Program Official Participation Rules



everychild.onevoice.®

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. (The “PTA” referred to in these rules include all PTAs reviewing the entry).

Student Eligibility: The Reflections program is open to all Texas students who meet the necessary requirements:

Schools Supported by a Local PTA/PTSA

- Students must attend a school with a Local PTA/PTSA which attains Active Status¹ no later than October 31; or students must attend a school which is defined within the service area of a community-based Local PTA/PTSA which attains Active Status¹ no later than October 31.
- The student or at least one person from their primary household must be a current member² of the Local PTA/PTSA where the student is participating. Each Local PTA/PTSA may determine a date by which the member must join.

¹ Active Status requirements are stipulated as part of the Texas PTA Standards of Continuing Affiliation.

² The Local PTA membership year is August 1 – July 31 each year.

Home-School Families, Virtual Schools and Non-PTA Schools

- Students who attend a school that is not supported by a Local PTA/PTSA may participate through the Lone Star Statewide PTA¹, as long as the student or at least one person of their primary household is a member of this PTA no later than September 30. Joining is easy at www.joinpta.org.

¹ Students who attend a school that is supported by a PTA/PTSA are not eligible to participate through the Lone Star Statewide PTA.

National PTA Reflections® 2016-2017 Theme: “What Is Your Story?”

Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.



Grade Divisions:

Students may enter the Reflections® program in the appropriate division for their grade.

Primary: Preschool – Grade 2

Intermediate: Grades 3-5

Special Artist: Primary/ Intermediate/ Middle School/ High School (please refer to the Special Artist rules)

Middle School: Grades 6-8

High School: Grades 9-12

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).

Arts Categories: There are six arts categories – dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. Students may enter the Reflections program in one or more arts categories with no limit to the amount of entries in a single category.



National PTA Reflections® Program Official Participation Rules



everychild.one voice.®

Entry Requirements: (All participants must also follow Arts Category and Division Rules)

- **Student Entry Process:** The student entry form must be complete with signatures and all contact information requested. Local PTA Reflections chair information must be entered where requested.
- **All entries must include a title and 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 10-100 words.
- **All entries must be the product of the participating student's creativity.** The program is designed to encourage each student's individual creativity, help from an adult (except in the Special Artist Division) is not allowed.
- **Each entry must be the original work of one student only.** Only one student will 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.
- **Use of copyrighted material is prohibited,** except for recorded music in dance choreography and film production entries. Use of background music must be cited on the student entry form.
- **Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the student.** *Plagiarism* is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own.

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. All decisions of the judges are final and binding in all respects.

Awards are announced at each level of judging at the Coordinator's discretion. Texas PTA award results will be posted at www.txpta.org in March. National award recipients are notified via email by National PTA on May 1, 2017. The PTA in its sole discretion will select finalists for exhibition and provide awards.

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.

PARTICIPATING ENTITIES: This program is administered by the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and PTA affiliates.

For more information about the National PTA
Reflections program in Texas, visit www.txpta.org.



National PTA® Reflections

Special Artist Division Rules



everychild.onevoice.®

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. The other necessary requirements are as follows:

Schools Supported by a Local PTA/PTSA

- Students must attend a school with a Local PTA/PTSA which attains Active Status¹ no later than October 31; or students must attend a school which is defined within the service area of a community-based Local PTA/PTSA which attains Active Status¹ no later than October 31.
- The student or at least one person from their primary household must be a current member² of the Local PTA/PTSA where the student is participating. Each Local PTA/PTSA may determine a date by which the member must join.

¹ Active Status requirements are stipulated as part of the Texas PTA Standards of Continuing Affiliation.

² The Local PTA membership year is August 1 – July 31 each year.

Home-School Families, Virtual Schools and Non-PTA Schools

- Students who attend a school that is not supported by a Local PTA/PTSA may participate through the Lone Star Statewide PTA¹, as long as the student or at least one person of their primary household is a member of this PTA no later than September 30. Joining is easy at www.joinpta.org.
- ¹ Students who attend a school that is supported by a PTA/PTSA are not eligible to participate through the Lone Star Statewide PTA.

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 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 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.



National PTA® Reflections

Dance Choreography Rules



everychild.onevoice.®

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. The dance can be performed by an individual or a group, although only one student may be the *choreographer* (student submitting entry).

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, First & Last Name
- Pack the DVD in a large envelope and use masking tape to secure your Student Entry Form to the outside of the envelope using a sheet protector, so that it is still accessible for photocopying. Do not tape over the opening of the sheet protector.

Submission Requirements:

- The student or at least one person from their primary household must be a current member of the Local PTA/PTSA where the student is participating. Each Local PTA/PTSA may determine a date by which the member must join.
- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- Cite background music (if any) on the student entry form.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.



National PTA® Reflections

Film Production Rules



everychild.onevoice.®

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 and First Name
- Pack the DVD in a large envelope and use masking tape to secure your Student Entry Form to the outside of the envelope using a sheet protector, so that it is still accessible for photocopying. Do not tape over the opening of the sheet protector.

Submission Requirements:

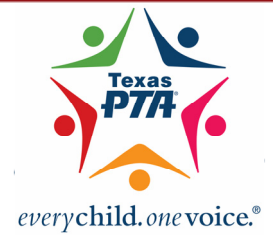
- The student or at least one person from their primary household must be a current member of the Local PTA/PTSA where the student is participating. Each Local PTA/PTSA may determine a date by which the member must join.
- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.

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: The entry can be hand written or typed on any type of paper not exceeding 8.5 X 11 (one sided only). Include a page number, the student name, entry title, arts category and grade division on the back of each page.
- Include the original literature piece and two copies of the entry in a **manila file folder** (3 copies total).
- Staple the Student Entry Form to the back of the folder and include another copy inside the folder.
- Do not mount the entries.

Submission Requirements:

- The student or at least one person from their primary household must be a current member of the Local PTA/PTSA where the student is participating. Each Local PTA/PTSA may determine a date by which the member must join.

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 themselves. *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. Do not mount or bind the scores.

Packaging:

- Accepted audio file formats include: MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC (M4A) and FLAC. **Audio only, no videos.**
- Label audio file & notation/score (*if applicable*) as well as CD/USB Drive with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name and First Name
- Pack the CD/USB in a large envelope and use masking tape to secure your Student Entry Form to the outside of the envelope using a sheet protector, so that it is still accessible for photocopying. Do not tape over the opening of the sheet protector.
- Include a second copy of your Student Entry Form inside the envelope.

Submission Requirements:

- The student or at least one person from their primary household must be a current member of the Local PTA/PTSA where the student is participating. Each Local PTA/PTSA may determine a date by which the member must join.

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. The **photographer** (student submitting entry) should be the one to set the scene, lighting and take the picture. If the **photographer** wishes to be in the photograph, a timer or remote must be used.

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. Photo collages not printed as one seamless photo are not permitted in this category.

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, scenes created in computer programs (i.e. Minecraft) 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 & First Name
- Protecting the work with butcher paper is highly recommended. Tape the paper to the back of the artwork on one side and overlay the front of the artwork to protect it during travel.
- Lamination is discouraged because it can permanently damage the surface of the photo.
- Place two copies of your Student Entry Form in a sheet protector and secure it with masking tape to the back of the photograph so that it is still accessible for photocopying. Do not tape over the opening of the sheet protector.
- Include the required title and artist statement on the Student Entry Form.

Submission Requirements:

- The student or at least one person from their primary household must be a current member of the Local PTA/PTSA where the student is participating. Each Local PTA/PTSA may determine a date by which the member must join.

Return of Artwork:

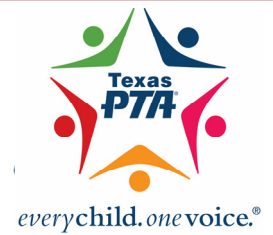
Entries that win at local levels will be forwarded to the next level of judging. If an entry is forwarded to the state level, it will not be returned until the end of the school year. Seniors should preserve a copy of their photograph to include in their portfolio. Final judging of winning entries occurs at the national level where all entries are received in an electronic format. Entries awarded at the National level will be included in their online and traveling exhibit. The original artwork may not be returned for 1-3 years.

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: 2D original print, drawing, painting, collage (cut and pasted materials such as clippings and photos), metal etching or punch work, fiber work or computer-generated artwork.*

*Note these guidelines are specific to Texas PTA. While other states have decided to incorporate additional 3D art mediums, Texas PTA has made the decision to accept only 2D Visual Arts entries.

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: Frames and artwork containing loose materials are not accepted. Matting is accepted.

- Dimensions must not exceed 24x30 inches, including matting. Paper entries must be mounted on sturdy material.
- 3D objects (i.e. beads, pasta, etc.) glued to artwork is not permitted. Artwork must be 2D.

Packaging:

- Label back of artwork & photo file with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last & First Name
- Protecting the work with butcher paper is highly recommended. Tape the paper to the back/edge of the artwork on one side and fold the butcher paper over the front of the artwork to protect it during travel.
- Lamination is discouraged because it can permanently damage the surface of the artwork.
- Place the 2 copies of the Student Entry Form in a sheet protector and secure it with masking tape to the back of the artwork so that it is still accessible for photocopying. Do not tape over the opening of the sheet protector.

Submission Requirements:

- The student or at least one person from their primary household must be a current member of the Local PTA/PTSA where the student is participating. Each Local PTA/PTSA may determine a date by which the member must join.

Return of Artwork:

- Entries that win at local levels will be forwarded to the next level of judging. If an entry is forwarded to the state level, it will not be returned until the end of the school year. Seniors should preserve a copy of their artwork to include in their portfolio. Final judging of winning entries occurs at the national level where all entries are received in an electronic format. Entries awarded at the National level will be included in their online and traveling exhibit. The original artwork may not be returned for 1-3 years.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.