

## General Participation Rules

Students must adhere to the General Participation Rules as well as the rules for their specific arts categories.

**Student Eligibility:** Students must participate in the National PTA Reflections Program 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.

**Grade Divisions:** Students may enter the National PTA Reflections Program 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 in the divisions below.

**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, musical composition, photography, and visual arts. Students may enter the National PTA Reflections Program in one or more arts categories.

**National PTA Reflections Theme:** “What’s Your Story?” is the theme for the 2016 – 2017 National PTA Reflections Program. Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.

**Student Entry Process:** Students enter the National PTA Reflections Program at the local level. Program dates, deadlines, and local procedures are determined at State and Local levels. Students are advised to check with local programs for information specific to local procedures and program deadlines. Students must complete a Student Entry Form to participate in Reflections.

**Program and Technical Requirements:** Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the 2016-2017 theme, “What’s Your Story?” may be submitted.

All artwork must contain a title and all entries must include an artist statement. We discourage the use of the theme as a title. The artist statement communicates what inspired the work, how it relates to the theme, and the content of the work. The statement must be at least 10 words, but may not exceed 100 words.

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.

Use of copyrighted material is prohibited, except for recorded music in dance choreography and film production entries. Any music used must be properly credited.

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.

Use of PowerPoint or similar presentation is prohibited because most graphic elements are copyrighted.

Students entering the National PTA Reflections Program at local levels should follow submission rules provided by Local/Council PTAs.

**Judging:** All national entries are judged on:

Interpretation of the theme – **“What’s Your Story?”**

Artistic merit

Creative merit

Technical merit

The National PTA Reflections Program makes no restrictions on content or subject matter in artwork. Each PTA/PTSA determines its own judges for the program. Under no condition may parents or students contact the judges to dispute the status of any entry. All decisions of judges are final.

**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.

## Filling Out the Student Entry Form

Council and State are filled in for you.

Local PTA chair must fill out information at the top of the form. We recommend that local chairs fill out as much of this portion of the form as possible before duplicating for distribution to students. Good standing information will have to be completed later for the entries that come forward to Council.

Make sure student and parent information is legible and complete. Please insure that this information is accurate since winners are notified using this data.

Both student and parent must sign student entry form unless student is 18 or older.

Note that the form has been redesigned to allow information for judges to be at the bottom of the form. This new design facilitates blind judging.

Make sure grade division and arts category are checked appropriately.

**STUDENT MUST INCLUDE TITLE AND ARTIST'S STATEMENT ON THE ENTRY FORM.**

We strongly recommend that the student not use the theme as the title.

On the lines for artwork details, the following is required:

**Dance** – credit music with title, composer, performer, and lyricist

**Film** – camera used, editing software, credit music (title, composer, performer, and lyricist), list of those appearing in film

**Literature** – word count of composition

**Music** – list of those performing the piece, list of instruments used, music composition software (if any)

**Photography** – brand and model of camera, kind of process to prepare photo, location and date of shot, dimensions of picture, dimensions with matting

**Visual Arts** – describe medium used, dimensions of artwork, dimensions with matting

Encourage the student to be creative in the artist's statement and be persuasive about why the work relates to the theme.