
UTAH RULES FOR THE PRESENTATION OF WORK

LITERATURE

Submitted on any paper not to exceed 8 1/2" x 11"

- Student's name written on back of each page
- Inside a manila folder
- Five entries, one original and one copy, paper clip to folder, do not staple
- **Official entry form placed inside plastic page protector and stapled to back of folder**

Optional artist statement by student on separate sheet

MUSICAL COMPOSITION

Submitted on high-quality audiocassette or CD

- If composition is for piano, recorded on well-tuned piano
- Not to exceed five minutes
- Music starts within first 10 seconds of the tape
- No extraneous sounds or music recorded on tape
- **Enclosed in either plastic or cardboard container (Required)**
- Student name, grade division, address, PTA, entry's title and playing time on both audiocassette or CD and container
- Manuscript paper—no spiral notebooks (if required)
 - Not to exceed 11" x 14"
 - Band and orchestra compositions may be on 11" x 16"
- Submit in a large envelope

Optional artist statement by student on separate sheet

PHOTOGRAPHY

Submitted on cardboard mat, poster board or sturdy material (foam core)

- **Not to exceed 11" x 14", including a mat**
- Shrink wrapping optional but highly recommended
- NO FRAMES, DO NOT LAMINATE
- Official entry form attached to back of photograph

Note: Works best if placed inside plastic page protector

Optional artist statement by student on separate sheet

VISUAL ARTS

Submitted on paper, canvas board, cardboard, not cold press board or canvas

- **Not to exceed 24" x 30", including a mat**
- 2-D work—Not to exceed 3/8" thickness
 - String, fabric, screening acceptable if attached to paper
 - No noodles, beans, macaroni, beads, etc.
- Shrink wrapping option but highly recommended
- NO FRAMES, DO NOT LAMINATE
- **Official entry form attached inside of plastic page protector**

Optional artist statement by student on separate sheet

CHOREOGRAPHY

Submitted on high-quality VHS video tape, DVD or CD—AVI format preferred

- Not to exceed five minutes
- Image starts after 10 seconds of black

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- Work of one student performed by student OR
 - Limited to three dancers
 - If costumes used, must be created by choreographer
 - Students name, grade division, address, PTA, entry title on both video tape and container
 - **Submitted in large envelope**
 - Official entry form attached to back of envelope in page protector
- Optional artist statement by student on separate sheet

FILM/VIDEO

Submitted on high-quality VHS video tape or DVD—AVI format preferred

- Not to exceed five minutes
 - Image starts after 10 seconds of black
 - Packaged in either plastic or cardboard container
 - Students name, grade division, address, PTA, entry title on both video tape and container
 - **Submitted in large envelope**
 - Official entry form attached to back of envelope
- Optional artist statement by student on separate sheet

THEATER

Submitted on high-quality VHS video tape or DVD—AVI format preferred

- Not to exceed five minutes
 - Image starts after 10 seconds of black
 - Work of one student performed by student OR
 - Limited to three actors
 - If costumes and stage sets are used, must be created by playwright
 - Package in either plastic or cardboard container
 - Students name, grade division, address, PTA, entry title on both video tape and container
 - **Submitted in large envelope**
 - Official entry form attached to back of envelope
- Optional artist statement by student on separate sheet

THREE DIMENSIONAL ART

Submitted on slides (6-8) or digital pictures on computer disk taken from different angles

- A ruler or coin should be included in the pictures to show dimension
 - Computer disk should be labeled with the name and age category of the person submitting
 - **Plastic sleeve containing slides placed in large envelope**
 - Official entry form attached to the outside of the envelope
- Optional artist statement by student on separate sheet

IMPORTANT NOTES

Although we refer to the artists statement as optional, it is **HIGHLY** recommended to complete the statement. Judges have been affected by the artists statement many times as it gives them an understanding of the intent of the artist. Word to the wise...**ALWAYS** have the student fill out the artist's statement.

Please do not send the only copy of your cassette, video, CD, or DVD. **Make copies for yourself.** We strongly encourage high school students to make slides or take photographs of their art before sending on to be judged. This will help them if they need to show their work for other programs such as Sterling Scholar, etc.



Reflections Program

Theme Search for Program Year
2010–2011

The National PTA is looking for a theme for its Reflections Program for the 2010–2011 year. A student's suggestion(s) for theme ideas may be sent to the Utah PTA office by the individual student or by a local PTA/PTSA. The theme may include a wide variety of subjects that will appeal to students in preschool through grade 12. The winning student will receive \$100 and recognition at the National PTA Convention in June 2009. Use this form or a duplicate to submit theme ideas

Local PTA _____

PTA President _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____ National PTA 8 digit ID# 0 0 _____

Student's Name _____ Grade _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____ School _____

Theme Idea _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____

Deadline is November 14, 2009, to UTAH PTA



LOCAL, COUNCIL, AND REGION PTA INFORMATION: FAQs AND JUDGING ISSUES

National PTA receives many inquiries about eligibility, specific arts areas, student information protections, and the judging process. The following information addresses these concerns.

Frequently Asked Questions About Participation

Who is eligible to participate? Participation in the Reflections Program is open to any student through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing. It is the responsibility of the local unit to determine each student's eligibility in the Reflections Program.

Can students participate through a local PTA not affiliated with their school? National PTA requires only that national entries come from local PTAs in good standing.

May home schooled students participate in the Reflections Program? National PTA requires only that national participants come from local PTAs in good standing.

Under what division should developmentally challenged students participate? National PTA believes that each child with a disability should be provided a free and appropriate public education. Therefore, the Reflections Program at the national level does not have a special division for students with disabilities. National PTA believes it is the right of parents to place their child in the Reflections Program grade division that best reflects the child's developmental age. However, guidelines for state and local Reflections Programs vary. Check with your Utah PTA to determine its guidelines.

May developmentally or physically challenged students receive help from a parent or teacher? Rules or policies regarding developmentally or physically challenged students are left up to the discretion of each state chair and may be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Use of copyrighted material

May students use copyrighted material as a source for their artwork? Use of copyrighted material is not

acceptable in visual arts collages. Photo renderings must be from uncopyrighted material.

Literature

May a student use unacceptable language in an entry? The Reflections Program makes no restriction on content or subject in the literature area. Students who are submitting entries created in a school setting should be mindful of school and/or local or state PTA standards for writing. Judges should be reminded that entries are to be reviewed for creativity, artistic merit, and interpretation of the theme.

Musical Composition

Why is there a concern about the length of the tape? All of the award-winning musical composition entry audiocassettes are re-mastered for the Reflections Program virtual exhibit. Sixty-minute or less high bias tapes provide the best sound for making a master of all of the recordings.

Where can one find 60-minute tapes if the local store only carries longer high bias tapes or they don't carry high bias tapes at all?

- Check the Internet using a search engine and enter the key words "high bias audiocassettes" for tapes listed by manufacturer.
- Most RadioShack, Wal-Mart, Kmart, and electronics stores carry 60-minute high bias tapes. If they don't have them in stock, ask the store to order them.

Please remember that the type of audiocassette used for recording the entry does not affect consideration of a musical composition entry.

Can a student use notation software for creating musical composition scores? A student may use composition software. Imported MIDI files or files from other sources are not acceptable.

Photography and Visual Arts

Can a student submit photos or visual arts pieces generated on a computer? National PTA includes photos and visual arts pieces generated on a computer.

Student Information Protection

How does a PTA protect student information on artwork? When artwork is on display, label the back of the piece only with the student's name, school, and town. Do not have the Official Entry Form attached to the back of the artwork in a display setting. No one outside of PTA should have access to student information. Develop a system to easily match and reattach Official Entry Forms to artwork for returning to the artist or sending on to the next judging level.

Finding Judges

You may already have a judging system in place that works well for your program. However, if you are having difficulty recruiting qualified judges, here are some ideas of others to invite to participate:

- Art, literature, and music educators; college/university professors
- Teachers from other schools participating in the Reflections Program
- Art museum directors, docents, curators, or historians
- Professional photographers, local artisans
- Local symphony orchestra or choral directors, musicians, conductors, composers
- Newspaper journalists, editors, photographers
- Arts advocacy organization president, director
- Teachers

Inviting professionals in the arts or influential community leaders to participate in the judging of your Reflections Program increases the exposure of your PTA, your work, and the wonderful benefits students derive from participating in the arts.

If a judge knows a student participant, the judge should hide him or herself from the judging process for that particular arts area to prevent a conflict of interest. Teachers from the host school serving as judges would also have a conflict of interest, so it is better to invite teachers from another school that also offers the Reflections Program.

Remember to recognize judges in promotions and thank them for participating. You may even wish to provide each judge with a small gift or certificate of appreciation.

The National PTA Judging Process

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. A local, council, or district PTA might want to use a similar process.

Literature and Musical Compositions—the four judges each receive entries from one grade division to review. The judges select eight entries for presentation to the full panel. After the presentation, the judges assign awards of excellence and awards of merit.

Photography and Visual Arts—entries are judged from slides of the original artwork. The judges view all of the artwork for one grade division and select pieces that they would like to see in a second round of view-

ing. In the second round, they pick the top eight and assign awards of excellence and awards of merit.

Tie Breakers—if two entries are judged as equal in all areas, the entry that best interprets the theme receives more recognition.

Outstanding Interpretation Selection—all of the awards of excellence in each arts area are reviewed together. The one piece that best interprets the theme is selected as outstanding interpretation.

Blind Judging

It is important to conduct *blind judging*—where judges do not see artists' names—in situations or settings where judges may know the student or the work.

Literature entries—distribute photocopies of **only** the front side of each literary entry. However, send the *original* form of each winning entry on to the next level of judging.

Musical compositions—prepare a master audiocassette or CD of all of the entries and a list of the entries using a code for the student's name. Include the grade, division, title, playing time, and optional statement if one is submitted.

Photography and visual arts—cover the personal information attached to the artwork.

Beyond the local PTA level, blind judging will need to occur only if there is a chance that the judges would recognize a student's entry. In most situations, judges at the council, district, and state PTA levels should be able to use the original materials for literature and musical composition.

Date

Bea Toven
2323 Reflections Circle
Any Town, UT 88888

Dear Bea:

We are pleased to inform you that your PTA Reflections entry entitled, "I can make a difference by..." was chosen as one of the thirty-two Region Winners!

We invite you and your parents to attend our award celebration on:

Date
Time
Place
Address

We invite you to perform your piece during this evening's program. A piano will be provided. We also invite you to be seated on the stage in the auditorium where you will be honored. A reception will be held following the program. Following this evening's ceremonies, your entry will then be sent on for state judging. If you have any questions please call, Voluna Tears at 999-9999.

We look forward to meeting you and sharing an evening of enjoyment together. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

Voluna Tears
Region Reflections Chair

Ima X Peart
Children's Dance Theater
Address
Any Town, UT 88888

Dear Ima:

Thank you for accepting my invitation to serve as a judge for the Region PTA Reflections program this year.

I have included with this letter a judging sheet and copies of the National and Utah PTA Reflections rules for your information. The 13 Dance/Choreography entries you will be judging were selected as winners at their local school level and advanced to the council where they went through another level of judging. They now come to you at the Region level for your judging. Please select only four (4) winners (one from each age category):

- one from grades K-2 category (red dot)
- one from grades 3-5 category (yellow dot)
- one from grades 6-8 category (green dot)
- one from grades 9-12 category (blue dot)

These four winners will then advance to the state level and be judged there. Each level brings a broader base of winners and a higher level of creativity and skill.

In addition to four winners, you may also select two honorable mention winners in each age category (two from grades K-2, two from grades 3-5, etc. for a total of 8 honorable mentions). These entries, however, do not continue on to the state level. We will honor all winners and honorable mention students at our awards celebration on February 24.

In order to give notification to the winners in a timely manner, I would like to retrieve the 13 entries from you no later than Wednesday, February 17. Please call me at 999-9999 when you have completed your judging, and I will be happy to come to your office and get them.

Again, thank you so much for your willingness to share your time and expertise on behalf of the children in this district.

Sincerely,

Voluna Tears
Region Reflections Chair

AWARDS AND JUDGING FOR REFLECTIONS

The Utah PTA and National PTA recognize that judging the arts is a very subjective task. Different sets of Judges will probably have different results. Because of this we do not give first, second, or third place awards. WE do however chose our outstanding entries to advance and be recognized as such. It is important that parents and those involved with the program understand this way of awarding Recognition. We encourage you all to use this way of recognizing the students at your level so that parents and students understand it and are familiar with it.

UTAH PTA RECOGNITION (State Level)

A special State recognition awards night will be held each year in April for those students who were awarded special recognition at the State level. At this awards night, the State will recognize **ONLY** those students who received recognition as “Outstanding Interpretation Award,” “Award of Excellence,” and “Award of Merit.” At the State level we will not be giving participation awards. The students who participate at the State level should be recognized at the REGION Level.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:

This is the TOP award and considered the highest recognition. At the state and national level we only give one Award of Excellence in each age group in each category. Occasionally in the UTAH ONLY categories we may choose more than one if the judges consider that there are several entries that are deserving of this recognition.

AWARD OF MERIT:

These entries are also considered a very high level of excellence and achievement. They were the ones not chosen for the Award of Excellence but were deserving of high recognition. WE choose from one to four entries in each age category and each arts category to receive this recognition depending on the decision of the judges.

AWARD OF OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION:

At the National level they choose just one entry in each ARTS area to receive this award. This entry can be from any of the age categories. It is a special award and these students are asked to come to the National Convention to share their Reflections entry. At the state level we use this designation to recognize students in the senior age division.

We ask that in judging the Reflections entries at the local level that they are NOT disqualified for things that can be fixed before they advance to the next level. Things like signatures and the wrong kind of tape can be fixed by the local Arts Chair before sending the entries on to the next level. **THE ONLY REASON FOR DISQUALIFYING AN ENTRY IS FOR ENTRIES THAT DO NOT FIT THE CRITERIA FOUND IN THE RULES.** Do not judge whether you “think” the child actually did the work themselves. There is an honor code and we have them sign the form that they did do the work themselves. If there is actual proof such as finding a child’s poem in a published book or evidence of copying something from a copyrighted item or other source then that would be grounds to disqualify.

Remember, each entry needs to be the work of one child. We can not accept entries with multiple names on them.

FILLING OUT THE FORMS

We really need all the paperwork to come to us completely filled out. You can add local information to your forms before copying them for your children so that you just have to add it once. We are adding a space this year for Bylaws and Membership information. **THIS HAS TO BE INCLUDED BEFORE YOUR ENTRIES ARE ACCEPTED AT THE NEXT LEVEL.**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REFLECTIONS JUDGES

Thank you for giving your time and your talents to help us CELEBRATE the children at our school. You are doing a priceless service for us. Please remember that we do not emphasize a spirit of competition in the Reflections Program but rather, we spotlight exceptional creativity and originality of expression. We are looking for that unique entry that truly shows the emotion and the heart of the children and young people who enter this program. Remember as you review the entries that you will see that we judge with an emphasis on the following areas:

1. Creativity
2. Interpretation of the theme
3. Artistic Merit

The purpose of this program is to SHOWCASE these young artists and to encourage their creativity in artistic expression. Please become familiar with the Rules that are included in this packet for each arts area. You will be selecting up to five winners in each arts area to advance to the council level. You do not have to send all five entries on if it is determined that they are not competitive or do not meet the standards of originality, creativity, interpretation of theme or overall excellence. In addition to the five winners, you may choose honorable mention winners at your discretion.

Important Judging Criteria: Remember to consider the age of the students and judge according to their age level. It is not appropriate for a judge to determine if they think a student actually did the work. The students are required to sign a statement saying that they did the work themselves. The work needs to be original so care has to be made to ensure that copyright laws are followed and ideas are not borrowed from other sources.

Artist statements should be read and considered to understand artistic intent and how the piece ties in to the theme.

Remember that the entries must demonstrate the theme. We ask you to report for judging at the following place and time.

Location

Date

Time

Sincerely,