



General Rules for Participation

All students must adhere to the General Student Participation Rules, as well as the rules for their specific arts category. Program rules and student entry forms are provided by your state PTA. To reference national rules, visit [PTA.org/ReflectionsToolkit](https://pta.org/ReflectionsToolkit)

Student Eligibility and Entry Guidelines: Students must participate in the National PTA Reflections program through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing, as determined by their state PTA. It is your Local PTA Reflections Committee's responsibility to confirm that your PTA is in good standing and to determine each student's eligibility. Questions about your student's eligibility and/or your PTA's good standing should be directed to unit President.

The following additional guidelines apply to student entries:

- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- A student may develop an entry inside or outside of the school.
- A student may submit entries in more than one arts category.
- Each student entry must be accompanied by a paper MANDATORY STUDENT ENTRY FORM which must be signed by the student and a parent or guardian.
- Student entries must include a title and an artist statement, which communicates the artist's inspiration for the work and how it relates to the theme. The statement must describe the content and include at least one sentence, but not exceed 100 words.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities may participate in the National PTA Reflections program in one of two ways.

1. **Enter in Special Artist Division** to receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult. Students are recognized and awarded prizes as part of the Special Artist Division. The Special Artist Division is an optional division of the Reflections program, accepting students in all grades whose physical, cognitive or mental health challenges meet guidelines set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

National PTA will honor one special artist from across all arts categories to receive an Outstanding Interpretation Award. Up to six additional special artists will receive a National PTA Award of Excellence.

2. **Enter in grade division most closely aligned to the student's functional abilities.** Students are recognized and awarded prizes as part of the general student population without regard to special needs or challenges. In this case, students follow all general rules and arts category rules but may submit their entries in the grade division most closely aligned to their cognitive or functional abilities.

Originality: Specific rules related to originality for each arts category are provided by your state PTA. National rules can be referenced at [PTA.org/ReflectionsToolkit](https://pta.org/ReflectionsToolkit). In general:

- An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work.
- Only one student may be recognized for each entry; collaboration with other students is not allowed. Other individuals may appear in or perform a student's work, but the work itself—the dance choreography, film production (i.e., screenplay, camera work and directing) or musical composition (i.e., written score and any lyrics)—must be the creative product of one student alone.



- The artwork must be inspired by the current year's theme and created expressly for the program. Artwork produced before the dissemination of the theme or used for another competition or program may not be submitted.

Use of Copyrighted Materials: Use of copyrighted material is prohibited in the literature, music composition, photography and visual arts categories. This includes the use of copyrighted cartoon characters, copyrighted material from the Internet, advertisements or advertising ideas, musical themes from existing copyrighted compositions, copyrighted recorded music, copyrighted photographs or stock images. Use of copyrighted music in dance choreography and film production entries is **acceptable when the title, composer and performer of any music in the submission are cited on the student entry form.**

Film productions, photography and visual art may include public places, well-known products, trademarks or other copyrighted material, as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and is a smaller element of the whole. Visual arts collages may include portions of existing copyrighted works, such as portions of photos, magazine clippings, internet images and type cut out of a newspaper, as long as those pieces of copyrighted works are used to create a completely new and different work of art. A collage should be judged for its whole—not its parts—and its creativity as an original work of art. Misuse of the above materials constitutes plagiarism—taking and using another's words, ideas or inventions as one's own.

Addressing Student Ineligibility: Occasionally, entries submitted to the Reflections program are ineligible. One reason for ineligibility is that the local PTA is not in good standing. It is very important that you check with your PTA president to ensure your PTA is in good standing with the state. Other common reasons for ineligibility are plagiarism and resubmission. The following recommended procedures apply to both plagiarized and resubmitted entries:

1. **Scan entries** to ensure that all are original and have not previously been submitted to Reflections or another art competition.
2. **Alert judges** to the possibility that some pieces may not be original and encourage them to communicate when one may be questionable.
3. **Check questionable entries via Google** or another search engine.
4. **Return ineligible pieces** to students, and explain why they are being returned.
5. **Talk with appropriate school personnel**, such as school counsellors, the principal or teachers about ways to address the seriousness of copying someone else's work or resubmitting artwork with the student and his/her family.

If ineligibility is confirmed after judging, determine whether awards (including award money, pins, certificates, etc.) should be returned.



Outstanding Interpretation Awards:
1 per arts category and special artist division

- An expense-paid trip for him- or herself and one adult to the National PTA Convention
- An \$800 arts education award from National PTA
- A \$200 arts education award is given to the student's local PTA
- A gold-plated Reflections medallion
- A certificate and letter signed by the National PTA president
- Recognition in the annual PTA Reflections online gallery

Awards of Excellence:
3 per division of each arts category and 1 special artist of each arts area

- A \$200 cash award
- A silver-plated Reflections medallion
- A certificate and letter signed by the National PTA President
- Recognition in the annual PTA Reflections online gallery

Awards of Merit:
5 per grade division of each arts category

- A silver-plated Reflections medallion
- A certificate and letter signed by the National PTA president
- Recognition in the annual PTA Reflections online gallery

Honorable Mentions:
All remaining national round participants

- A certificate and letter signed by the National PTA president

Award Notification: National awards are announced in May at PTA.org/Reflections. National award recipients are notified via email by National PTA. National awards and certificates are mailed after the National PTA Convention, by the end of July. Any awards or certificates returned to the National PTA office due to insufficient or incorrect addresses will be mailed to the appropriate state office.

Return of Artwork: Entries that receive national awards are featured online at PTA.org/Reflections. Photograph prints and visual artwork are returned within two years. The National PTA office receives electronic files/digital entries in film production, dance choreography, literature, music composition, and photography and these are not returned. Please contact your State PTA for its artwork return policy.

- Ohio PTA Awards include **Award of Excellence, Award of Outstanding Achievement, Award of Merit and Honorable Mention** in each age category for Visual Arts, Literature, Dance Choreography, Film Production, Musical Composition, Photography and Special Artist.
- Ohio PTA's Visual and Photography artwork is returned to the local unit, except for those entries selected by Ohio PTA. Check with your District Advisor for specific return dates. The winning entries are returned to the local units. Literature, video, music and dance entries are not returned.
- Ohio PTA exhibits the winning entries at the annual Ohio PTA Convention and at various locations throughout the months of May-October.

VISUAL ARTS

Architecture, carpentry, ceramics, collages, photographic collages, computer-generated image, crafts, design, dioramas, drawing, fiber work, jewelry, kites, metal etching/punch work, mobiles, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and windchimes.

Dimensions of 2D works not to exceed 24 x30 including matting
No frames

Mount 2D artwork on a sturdy backing

* **3D works. Must include three photos for each 3D entry.**

See Student's packet for details.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Color, Black and White

Single photo, panoramic, photomontage, a multiple exposure, negative sandwich or photogram.

No smaller than 3x5, No larger than 8x10 (11x14 with matting)

No frames

No 3-D entries

No slides or transparencies
No collages or multiple photo

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

Original work of one student

Not to exceed 5 minutes
Credit music used

FORMAT

Video: AVI, MP4

Maximum Upload File Size: 1MB

Record production on CD/DVD or flash drive

SPECIAL ARTIST

Disability as defined by Americans with Disability Act (ADA)

May enter in any category
See guidelines for Student Packet

Student Entry Form **must be signed** by parent/guardian regardless of age

REFLECTIONS at a GLANCE

See www.ohiopta.org for more info



everychild. one voice.

AGE CATEGORIES

Primary:

Preschool – Grade 2

Intermediate:

Grades 3 – 5

Middle/Junior:

Grades 6 – 8

Senior:

Grades 9 – 12

All entries must be signed by student
and parent (unless over 18)

MUSICAL COMPOSITION

Original Composition
Voice, instrument(s), or a combination of voice and instrument(s)

Not to exceed 5 minutes and 1000MB in file size

FORMAT

Audio Recording of Music

Performance:

MP3, WAV

1GB in size

Record production on CD or flash drive

PDF of music notation is required for Middle and High School entries

LITERATURE

Fiction or non-fiction
Prose, poetry, drama, reflective essay, narrative, short story

Do not exceed 2000 words
Grade appropriate grammar, punctuation and spelling

FORMAT

Single-sided handwritten or typed on 8 1/2 X11" paper

PDF

FILM/VIDEO PRODUCTION

Animation Narrative
Documentary Experimental
Media presentations

Original work of one student

Not to exceed 5 minutes
Credit music used

FORMAT

Video: AVI, MP4

Maximum Upload File Size: 1MB

Record production on DVD/CD or flash drive