

National PTA Reflections Program: Music Composition Rules and Guidelines (page 1 of 2)

“The Magic of a Moment”

Deadline Date: _____

Description

Music composition entries may include works for voice, instrument/s, or a combination of voice and instrument/s. Compositions may not exceed five minutes. Music and lyrics (if included) must relate to the current National PTA Reflections® Program theme.

The recording submitted may capture a performance in real-time or may make use of a sound library generated performance of a score composed in its entirety by the student participant. Live performances may include performance by the composer, but this is not required.

The use of composition software is permitted. The entry may not include commercially pre-programmed imported MIDI or other source files, or use algorithmic composition software. Whether the score is handwritten or computer-generated, appropriate instrumentation and voicing are required.

Music Composition entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material. Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- The music composition should directly relate to the theme.
- Submit two CD recordings of the composition.
- The composer is not required to be the performer (or one of the) performer(s).

Recommendations for Quality Recordings

- Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument 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, improve the recording quality by changing the record volume or microphone location.
- Make sure the music is audible on the recording.
- Return to the beginning of the CD and record two seconds of silence, then start performing your composition. Finish with another two seconds of silence.

Musical Notation

Whether a student must submit musical notation is determined by his or her grade division:

- Primary and Intermediate: No notation is required. Iconic notation may be submitted. Iconic notation is “made-up” notation.
- Middle and Senior: Notation, either traditional or tablature, is required.
- A student’s composed work may be performed by a group or may make use of a sound library generated performance of a score composed in its entirety by the student participant.

Score

- Score requirements are determined by grade division. Where required and when submitted voluntarily, a score must be created solely by the student.
- Primary, Intermediate, and Special Artist Divisions: A score is not required. A score or iconic notation may be submitted. Iconic notation is “made-up” notation.
- Middle School and High School Divisions: Notation, either traditional or tablature, is required.
- Score:
 - > Score pages should be numbered and no larger than 8.5 inches by 11 inches.
 - > Do not mount or bind the scores.
- Submit one original and TWO copies of the score for local unit judging.
- Number each page.

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. The divisions are as follows:

Primary: preschool – grade 2 Intermediate: grades 3 – 5 Middle School: grades 6 – 8;
High School: grades 9 – 12 Special Artist: ungraded

Special Artists Division

- Qualifying students create their own artwork but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult.
- Students who qualify for the Special Interest Division may choose to enter in the traditional four grade divisions. If this is the case, the student will follow all general rules and arts category rules, but may submit the entry in the grade division most closely aligned to their cognitive or functional abilities. The student is recognized and awarded as part of the general student population without regard to special needs or challenges.
- National PTA will honor one Special Artist from across all categories to receive an Outstanding Interpretation Award. Up to five additional Special Arts will receive a National PTA Award of Excellence.
- If students do not fall under specific grade divisions, National PTA suggests that they be grouped as follows: Primary: up to age 7; Intermediate: ages 8–10; Middle: ages 11–13; Senior: ages 14+
- It is the responsibility of the local PTA/PTSA to determine the appropriate division if necessary.

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Student Entry Process

- Students enter the National PTA Reflections® Program at local levels. Students fill out the Student Entry Form by the local unit deadline date listed on the top of the reverse side of this page and submit their entry to their local unit for awards judging. All artwork 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. For most arts areas, students must also answer a few questions about how they created their works; see the back side of the Student Entry Form.
- Upon completion of the local program, students whose winning entries are selected to move to the next level of the Reflections competition will complete an online entry process, and the local unit or council will send an audio recording and scores, along with a student entry form to the State PTA for next level of adjudication.
- Submit two CD recordings of the composition. The following formats are acceptable:
 - > Audio Recording of Music Performance: MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV
 - > Music Scores (if included) handwritten or typed
 - > Lyrics (if included) handwritten or typed

National PTA Reflections® Theme: “The Magic of a Moment”

- The theme for the 2012 – 2013 National PTA Reflections® Program “The Magic of a Moment.” Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- All entries must contain a Title.
- All entries must include an Artist Statement. The artist statement communicates what inspired the work and how it relates to the theme, and also describes the content of the work. The statement must include at least one sentence, but may not exceed 100 words.

Originality

- 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.
- Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person’s ideas, writings, or inventions as one’s own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the student.

Browser Recommendations

The National PTA Reflections website can be accessed using any of the following browsers:

- Chrome 12 and greater,
- Firefox 3 and greater,
- Safari 4 and greater,
- Internet Explorer 6 and greater.

Deadlines

Students must submit all works by the deadline established by their local PTA/PTSA. Each local PTA/PTSA sponsoring the program sets its own deadline for entries, in adherence with state and council deadlines. Entries are judged at the local level and the top entries are forwarded to the next level of judging (council or state). Direct all questions regarding deadlines or rules to the WSPTA office. National PTA does not record deadlines for local, council, or state PTAs.

Judging

All national entries are judged on Interpretation of the National PTA Reflections® Theme, Artistic Merit, Creative Merit, and 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.

CHECKLIST FOR PREPARING YOUR ENTRY

What students must do to enter:

- Follow rules and guidelines given regarding presentation and format for your entry.
- Assign a title to your entry
- Complete the student entry form, taking care to:
 - a. include the name of your entry, and
 - b. fill out the artist’s statement, which 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.
 - c. answer specific questions tied to each arts category (These questions should be printed on the back side of your local unit Reflections Student Entry Forms.)
- Print the form and sign it, and have one parent or guardian sign it also.
- Submit the artwork and paper copy of the student entry form to your local PTA’s Reflections Chair on or before the locally established deadline.
- Submit one original and TWO copies of the score. Score pages should be numbered and no larger than 8.5 inches by 11 inches. Do not mount or bind the scores. Number each page.
- Submit two CD recordings of the composition. The following formats are acceptable:
 - Audio Recording of Music Performance: MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV
 - Music Scores (if included) typed or handwritten
 - Lyrics (if included) typed or handwritten

Questions? Contact WSPTA Reflections Chairperson, Michelle Bartholomew, Reflections@wastatepta.org, 509-768-0137, 5225 S. Saltese Lk. Rd., Greenacres, WA. 99016