

REFLECTIONS RULES PACKET



2009 – 2010 Reflections Program Theme: “Beauty is...”

This Reflections Chairs’ packet includes:

- Local Art's Chair Guide
- Theme Search Application for 2011-2012
- General Student Participation Rules and FAQs
- Arts Area Rules
- Official Entry Form
- Unit Reporting Form A

THEME SEARCH FORMS: MAIL DIRECTLY TO STATE PTA OFFICE

Deadline for 2011-2012 Theme Search Forms in State PTA Office: November 1, 2009

- Reflection entries will not be accepted unless they are received through channels.
- Entries are forwarded from Units to Councils, from Councils to District PTAs, and from District PTAs to the California State PTA office.
- Out-of-Council Units forward entries directly to their District PTA Reflections Chairman.
- Please verify your Council/District PTA deadlines and schedule your program accordingly.

Deadline for entries to unit chairmen on or before: _____

Deadline for entries to council chairmen on or before: _____

Deadline for entries to district PTA chairmen on or before: _____

Deadline for entries in the State PTA office on or before: January 22, 2010

Deadline for entries to National PTA headquarters on or before: March 2, 2010

To maintain the integrity of this packet, the California State PTA Reflections Coordinator strongly urges you to copy the forms and retain the originals for future use.

It is also recommended that you fill in the unit/council and district PTA blanks on the Entry Form prior to copying and disbursing to students.

PTA Reflections Program Local Arts Chairs' Guide

2009–2010 Reflections Program Theme:

“Beauty is . . .”

Please contact your state PTA office regarding deadlines.

40 Years of Achievement in the Arts

For 40 years, the national PTA Reflections Program has encouraged students across the nation and in American schools overseas to explore their artistic talents.

The PTA Reflections Program is designed to enhance quality arts education for students in preschool through grade 12, encouraging them to create works of art in the areas of dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts. More than 500,000 students participate through their local PTAs each year—millions over the course of the program’s 40 years.

The Reflections Program helps parents encourage the creativity and lifelong learning of their children, and offers children recognition for their artistic endeavors.

Parents, teachers, and community members all play a critical role in providing a positive learning environment for children. Supporting the PTA Reflections Program is one way you can increase student achievement, foster student talents, and promote the arts in your home, your school, and your community.

Local Arts Chair Responsibilities

Local arts chairs are responsible for the following in running the PTA Reflections Program at their schools:

- Contacting the state PTA office for the year's updated rules and materials
- Establishing a Reflections Program network and answering questions
- Establishing a timeline
- Promoting the Reflections Program to parents, students, and teachers
- Distributing the rules, deadlines, and Student Entry Forms
- Collecting and cataloging entries
- Recruiting judges and setting up the judging process and judging dates
- Announcing and recognizing winners
- Submitting winning entries to the next level of judging
- Submitting required forms and tracking participation
- Keeping records
- Returning artwork to participants

Contacting the State PTA Office

To start the Reflections Program year, contact your council/district PTA office for the most up-to-date rules, deadlines, and submission guidelines, all of which may differ from throughout the state. Each area may establish requirements beyond those of the national program. The national PTA office does not set, alter, or record state rules or deadlines. Please contact your council/district PTA office for this information.

Provide the council/district PTA office your contact information as local arts chair to make sure you receive all Reflections Program updates and reminders throughout the program year.

Establishing a Reflections Program Network

Create a network of teachers and volunteers to help distribute information about the Reflections Program and answer questions from parents and students regarding rules and deadlines. Consider establishing a Reflections Program committee of two to three

additional volunteers to assist in running the program. Make sure your team knows how the Reflections Program works and what the deadlines are for your state. Your unit is not required to participate in all six arts areas, but you should be familiar with the rules and submission requirements for each arts area in which you do accept entries.

Establishing a Timeline

When establishing your timeline, allow ample time for students to create the works of art and for entries to be received and judged. When setting the deadline for student submissions, work backward from the deadline established by your state PTA for submitting entries to the next level of judging. Allow at least two weeks for the judging process, and another two to three weeks for copying paperwork and packaging the winning artwork for the next level of judging.

To avoid confusion, **distribute only the student submission deadline to parents and students.** Do not share the deadline for entries to be sent to the next level of judging.

Make sure you know where to send winning entries for the next level of judging.

Promoting the PTA Reflections Program

Once you've established the deadline for student submissions, promote the Reflections Program to families and students, as well as teachers. (Reflections Program submissions may be developed in or outside of school as long as the entries are new pieces inspired by the current year's theme and created expressly for the program.) The school's art, music, theater, film, dance, and photography teachers can be strong allies in encouraging all students to participate.

Consider kicking off the program with a PTA-hosted arts night at which you share the submission deadline, rules, and Student Entry Form (see below). Promotional fliers for the program are available at PTA.org/reflections in both English and Spanish. Be sure to also include Reflections Program information and reminders in PTA/school newsletters and websites. In all promotions, include the student submission deadline and contact information for where to direct questions.

Distributing the General Student Participation Rules, Arts Area Rules, and Student Entry Form

General Student Participation Rules and Arts Area Rules

All students must adhere to the General Student Participation Rules as well as the rules for their specific arts area. Provide teachers with the rules in advance. Then distribute all rules, as well as the Student Entry Form, to families and students through a kick-off meeting, other PTA or school events, fine arts classes, newsletters, and the PTA/school website. Be prepared to answer questions.

Student Entry Form

In order to be accepted, each entry submitted must include a completed and signed Student Entry Form. **The form must have the signatures of both the student and the parent/guardian, unless the student is 18 years old. If the student is 18 or over, only the student's signature is required. Entries submitted without the entry form or the appropriate signatures will be disqualified.**

Do not change the legal section of the Student Entry Form. The legal permission section gives PTA, including the national PTA organization and all local, council, district/region, and state PTAs, permission to use student artworks for publicity purposes. It gives PTA rights to use the artworks in public presentations, publications, promotions, galleries, programs, etc., in print, electronic, and multimedia formats.

Student Entry Forms need to be on 8½-inch by 11-inch (8½" x 11") paper. Do not reduce the size of the form.

The Student Entry Form is available in English and Spanish. All Student Entry Forms submitted in Spanish must have an English translation attached.

Required Artist Statement

Each entry must include an artist statement. The purpose of this statement is for the child to explain how the entry relates to, embodies, or is inspired by the national theme. The statement should not exceed 250 words; there is no minimum length. The Student Entry Form provides a space for the artist statement; if the statement does not fit in the space given, it may be written on a separate sheet and attached to the

Student Entry Form. Make sure the student's full name appears on any sheet attached to the Student Entry Form.

Local PTA Information

Before submitting entries to the next level of judging, complete the local PTA information at the bottom of the Student Entry Forms. All information is required. Please provide the *official* PTA/PTSA name; this will be used in student recognition. You may want to type in the information before copying and distributing the form.

Requirements for the Student Entry Form for Photography and Visual Arts Entries

Place the original signed Student Entry Form in a sheet protector and tape the sheet protector to the back of the artwork using masking tape. The form is designed so that the sheet can be folded in half for judging purposes. **Please do not tape the form directly to the artwork; make sure the form is in a sheet protector.** Taping the form directly to the artwork makes it difficult to photocopy the form without risking damaging the work. For any artwork being sent to the next level of judging, you are required to send the original Student Entry Form on with the winning piece. Please make a copy of all Student Entry Forms that are sent to the next level of judging. Keep this information until the piece has been returned to the child.

Consent Forms

The state PTA requires consent forms for only those entries going on to national PTA. The national PTA office suggests that signed consent forms be submitted along with the Student Entry Form for all individuals who appear in a dance choreography, film production, or photography entry—and if it includes images of an individual, a literature or visual arts entry. If an individual appearing in an entry is under the age of 18, parental consent should also be obtained and submitted. Keep a copy of the consent forms on file.

Collecting Entries

As artwork is submitted, catalog the entries for judging. Keep all Student Entry Forms with the original artwork. Check for obvious disqualifications due to size or length of entry (see the requirements given in the arts area rules), medium, or plagiarized or resubmitted entries (see “Originality”).

Judging

Judging at the National Level

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, mastery of the medium, and interpretation of the theme. Mastery of the medium in the context of the national Reflections Program pertains to the level of skill the student demonstrates in the basic principles/techniques of the arts area. However, a well-developed concept is more important than technique. Entries will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

Literature, musical composition, dance choreography, and film production: Each of the four judges in the arts area receives entries from one grade division to review. Each judge selects 10 entries from his or her assigned grade division for presentation to the full panel. After the presentation, the judges collectively assign awards of excellence and awards of merit. Up to three awards of excellence and up to five awards of merit are awarded in each grade division of each arts area.

Photography and visual arts: Entries are judged from electronic files of the original artwork. The judges view all of the artwork for one grade division and select the pieces that they would like to see in a second round of viewing. In the second round, they pick the top eight and assign awards of excellence and awards of merit. Up to three awards of excellence and up to five awards of merit are awarded in each grade division of each arts area. The judges then repeat the process for the other grade divisions.

Tiebreakers: If two entries are judged as equal across all areas, the entry that best interprets the theme receives more recognition.

Outstanding Interpretation selection: All recipients of awards of excellence in each arts area are reviewed together. The piece in each arts area that best interprets the theme is selected for the Outstanding Interpretation Award. There are a total of six Outstanding Interpretation Award recipients—one in each arts area.

A local, council, or district/region judging process could have a similar design.

Below is a basic judging rubric units may use in evaluating entries and assigning awards.

Sample Judging Rubric

All entries should be judged on artistic merit, creativity, mastery of the medium, and, most heavily, interpretation of the theme.

Interpretation of Theme	How closely the piece relates to the theme, based on the artwork itself and the artist statement	5pts
Artistic Merit/Creativity	How creative and original the piece is in its conception of the theme and its presentation	3pts
Mastery of Medium	The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/ techniques of the arts area	2pts

With this rubric, each entry would have a total of no more than 10 possible points from each judge. Add the points from each judge and rank the artwork accordingly.

Name of Entry	Interpretation of Theme	Artistic Merit/ Creativity	Mastery of Medium	Total Points

Establishing Judging Dates

Establish judging dates based on your student submission deadline, the deadline for submitting entries to the next level of judging, and the number of entries you expect to receive. If your unit participates in all six arts areas of the Reflections Program, expect to need at least two weeks for the judging process, and another two to three weeks to prepare artwork for the next level of judging. Refer to the earlier section “Establishing a Timeline” for additional information.

Recruiting Judges

All judges should have a working knowledge of their assigned arts area. Sources of judges might include:

- Art, literature, dance, film, journalism, and music educators or college/university professors
- Teachers from other schools participating in the Reflections Program
- Art museum directors, docents, curators, or historians
- Professional photographers and local artists
- Local symphony orchestra or choral directors, musicians, conductors, or composers
- Local dance conservatories, dance studios, ballets, or theaters
- Local multimedia/video production companies
- Newspaper journalists, editors, or photographers
- Local television stations
- Arts advocacy organization presidents or directors

As a point of reference, the national PTA office has a minimum of one judge per grade division in each arts area. In addition to the judging rubric, give the judges the participation and arts area rules.

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

Remember to recognize judges in promotions and thank them for their participation. Some PTAs provide each judge with a small gift or certificate of appreciation.

Resolving Conflicts of Interest

If a judge knows a student participant or a student's work, the judge should remove him- or herself from the judging process for that particular arts area to prevent a conflict of interest. Teachers from the host school may know student work and/or have a conflict of interest in judging, so it is better to invite teachers from another school that offers the Reflections Program.

Blind Judging

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

- **Literature:** Distribute photocopies of *only* the front side of each literature entry. However, send the *original* manuscript of each winning entry on to the next level of judging.
- **Musical composition, dance choreography, and film production:** It is suggested for each arts area, prepare a CD/DVD of all the entries, as well as a list of the entries, using a code for the students' names. Include the grade division, title of work, playing time, and artist statement in the list of entries.
- **Photography and visual arts:** Cover the personal information attached to the artwork by folding the Student Entry Form (see example to the right). If the student has signed the artwork, cover the signature for judging.

2009-2010 PTA Reflections Program Student Entry Form

Directions: Please type or print clearly in black or blue ink (do not use pencil). Complete this form before you start working on the artwork of your project. Be sure to write your full name on your notebook paper.

Grade: _____ Grade Division: (check one) _____
 Primary (grades K-2) Dance Choreography
 Middle/Junior grades 3-5 Music Production
 Senior grades 6-12 Dance Choreography and Film Production
 Musical Composition

Art Area (check one)
 Visual Arts Dance
 Music Production Photography
 Film Production

Required Artist Statement
I, _____, am the artist who created the artwork for this project. I am _____ years old and live at _____.
I am _____ years old and live at _____.

REQUIRED INFORMATION
 See attached (leave your art area entry attached to this form)
 See attached (leave your art area entry attached to this form)

Photography and Visual Arts: Give the dimensions of the work in inches, including mat. _____ L _____ W _____
Describe the type of camera and process used in preparing the piece. _____
Visual Arts: Describe the medium (color, oil on canvas, etc.). _____
Dance: Describe the name(s) of performer(s). _____
Music Production: Name(s) of performer(s) appearing in your film. _____
Dance Choreography and Film Production: Give the background, title, length, composer, and performer(s). _____
Musical Composition: Name(s) of person(s) who performed your composition. _____ Click here: Traditional instrumentation Synthesizer
Was a computer used? If so, name the software and hardware. _____
Are lyrics included? If so, how do your lyrics complement your composition? _____
FILE NAME: _____

Beyond the local PTA level, blind judging will need to occur only if there is a chance that the judges may know a student. In most situations, judges at the council and district/region levels should be able to use the original materials for judging.

Recognizing Award Recipients

Each unit determines how it will recognize and award participants. Formal award ceremonies, certificates of participation, ribbons, and plaques are some types of recognition. In addition, units may recognize students by publishing photography, visual arts, and literature entries in local newsletters; hosting a Reflections Program exhibit; or creating an online gallery or special publication of award-winning entries.

Submitting Entries to the Next Level of Judging

Each state has different regulations on the number of entries a unit may submit to the next level of judging. Please check with your state PTA for this number, as well as the deadline, mailing address, and any additional requirements for submission.

All entries must be submitted in the appropriate format, as described below and specified by the state PTA office.

Literature entries: Send the original and two copies of each literature entry. Paperclip the duplicate copies of the entry to the original. The student's name should be written on the back of each page of the original and the copies. Submit the entry in a manila file folder with the Student Entry Form stapled to the back of the folder, or slip the Student Entry Form, original, and two copies into a clear sheet protector. Keep a copy of the entry for your files. Make sure all copies are clearly legible. This may prove difficult when copying handwritten entries. Check all copies before mailing them to the next level of judging.

Musical composition entries: Send each musical composition entry—the 2 CDs in plastic or cardboard containers and, if applicable, the score—in its own large envelope with the Student Entry Form in a clear sheet protector secured to the outside of the envelope. Any musical composition entries that include a score should have the student's name written on the back of each page of the score. Keep a copy of the score and a CD for your files.

Dance choreography and film production

entries: Send each dance choreography and film production entry—the 2 CDs/DVDs in plastic or cardboard containers—in their own large envelope with the Student Entry Form in a clear sheet protector secured to the outside of the envelope. Keep a copy of the CD/DVD for your files. All dance choreography and film production entries must be saved as a file on the CDs/DVDs, not as a CDs/DVDs movie.

Photography and visual arts entries:

Please contact your state PTA office for its rules and procedures for submitting photography and visual arts entries.

2009-2010 PTA Reflections Program **STUDENT ENTRY FORM** Theme: "Beauty is..."

Directions: Please type or print clearly in black or blue ink (do not use pencil). Completely fill out the form down to and including the required signatures. Leave the local area for local PTA information blank. If you need more space, use the back of this form or another sheet of paper. Be sure to write your full name on any additional pages.

Grade: _____ Grade Division (check one): Primary, grades/grades 2 Intermediate, grades 3-5 Middle/Junior, grades 6-8 Senior, grades 9-12

Age: _____ Arts Area (check one): Dance Choreography Film Production Literature Musical Composition Photography Visual Arts

Gender: M F

Title of Work: _____

Required Artist Statement: _____ Explain how your work relates to the theme. See attached (please print your name on any attached sheets)

REQUIRED INFORMATION

Photography and Visual Arts: Give the dimensions of the work in inches, including mat. L _____ W _____

Photography: Location(s) of shot: _____

Describe the type of camera and process used in preparing the piece: _____

Visual Arts: Describe the medium (crayons, oil on canvas, etc.): _____

Dance Choreography: Name(s) of performer(s): _____

Film Production: Name(s) of person(s) appearing in your film: _____

Was a computer used? If so, name the software and hardware: _____

Dance Choreography and Film Production: Credit the background music below (title, composer, and performer): _____

Musical Compositions: Chorus Traditional Instrumentation Synthesizer

Name(s) of person(s) who performed your composition: _____

Was a computer used? If so, name the software and hardware: _____

Are lyrics included? If so, how do your lyrics complement your composition? _____

Student's First name _____ Middle Init. _____ Last name _____

Address 1 _____ Address 2 _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

PTA needs the original work. After the region award and local PTA presentation at unit level, your PTA reserves the right to use any entries for promotional or membership use, including but not limited to public presentation of the work and reproduction of the work in print, electronic, and multimedia formats to promote the Reflections Program. PTA will continue to use any work as long as it remains a copy of a video. PTA is not responsible for return shipment costs. Entries may not be returned. Understand that if you participate in the Reflections Program through a PTA, PTA is your liability. I affirm that this is my original work. I understand that the submission of my work into the Reflections Program constitutes acceptance of the above conditions.

Signature of student _____ Signature of parent/legal guardian (necessary if child is under 18 years) _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL PTA Check one: PTA PTA Local eight-digit PTA ID: _____

Local chair name _____ Chapter PTA/PTSA name _____

PTA address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____ Phone (____) _____

Send PTA good wishes sticker: Membership dues paid date _____ Entrance paid date _____ Expense approval date _____

Please do not staple, tape, glue, or otherwise affix Student Entry Forms directly to an envelope or a piece of artwork. Place the form in a clear sheet protector and attach the sheet protector to the envelope or artwork.

When sending entries to the next level of judging, use a service that allows you to track and confirm receipt of entries from your end.

Submitting Required Forms

With the entries moving to the next level of judging, all units are required to submit:

- The appropriate PTA Participation Form (local, council, or district/region). All information is mandatory.
- A completed and signed original Student Entry Form for each entry, including the required artist statement in the space designated or on a separate page attached and identified with the student name.

PTA Participation Form

The national PTA office requires each state to track the number of PTAs that participated and the total number of works entered in the state's program.

Therefore, all units are required to submit a participation form to the next level of judging along with their winning artwork. There are forms for local, council, and district/region PTAs. (Contact your state PTA office or go to PTA.org/reflections to access the forms.)

Please keep copies of all forms for your records.

Keeping Records

Keep copies of Student Entry Forms for PTA records. It is recommended that you document and make copies of all materials mailed to the next level of judging. File that information in the PTA office so that there is a comprehensive log of all artwork submitted to the next level of judging. Also keep a detailed record of all artwork being displayed in your community and returned to students. Again, file the information in the PTA office so that there is more than one person or group of people privy to this information.

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program

“Beauty is . . .”

Submission Checklist

This checklist is for use in preparing your unit’s Reflections Program packet for submission to the next level of judging. Please keep this list for your records.

If your packet is not complete, it may be disqualified.

- Confirmed that you are a PTA/PTSA in good standing.

Forms

Student Entry Forms completely filled out, including:

- PTA ID number (found in upper left corner of PTA mailing labels)
- Original signatures of student and, if student is under 18, parent/guardian
- Required Artist Statement
- Original Student Entry Forms for all six arts areas included in the packet
- Form A completely filled out**
- Made copies of Student Entry Forms (including attached artist statements) for PTA files

Literature Entries

- Student’s name written clearly on the back of each page, or if a picture book, the student’s name included somewhere on the entry
- One original and two copies of each entry provided
- Each entry in a manila file folder with the Student Entry Form stapled to the back of the folder, or each entry placed in a clear sheet protector

Musical Composition Entries

- Both CDs or DVDs must be packed in plastic or cardboard containers (CDs/DVDs and containers both identified with the student’s name, grade division, state, and year) and placed in a manila envelope (Must submit 2 CDs/DVDs, suggest make copy to keep.)
- Scores included for middle/junior and senior entries, with student’s name written clearly on the back of each page

- Student Entry Form in a clear sheet protector attached to the outside of each envelope

Dance Choreography Entries

- Both CDs or DVDs must be packed in a plastic or cardboard container (CDs/DVDs and containers both identified with the student's name, grade division, state, and year) and placed in a manila envelope (Must submit 2 CDs or DVDs, make copy to keep.)

- Student Entry Form in a clear sheet protector attached to the outside of each envelope

Film Production Entries

- Both CDs or DVDs must be packed in a plastic or cardboard container (CDs/DVDs and containers both identified with the student's name, grade division, state, and year) and placed in a manila envelope (Must submit 2 CDs or DVDs, suggest make copy to keep.)

- Student Entry Form in a clear sheet protector attached to the outside of each envelope

Photography Entries

- Submitted according to state instructions
- Student Entry Form in a clear sheet protector attached to the back of the artwork

Visual Arts Entries

- Submitted according to state instructions
- Student Entry Form in a clear sheet protector attached to the back of the artwork

Met deadline: _____

Packet sent to: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Tracking information: _____

Confirmation of delivery: _____ Date: _____

(Please contact the Reflections coordinator at your council or district PTA office for deadlines and contact information for the next level of judging.)

Announcing National Award Recipients

State PTA presidents and state arts chairs will receive a list of the national award recipients in May. It is the responsibility of the state to contact students who have received national recognition, with the exception of national Outstanding Interpretation Award recipients. The national PTA office personally notifies the Outstanding Interpretation Award recipients. National awards and certificates are mailed to students after the PTA National Convention, sometime in July.

National PTA Office Artwork Return Policy

National award-winning entries are featured in the Reflections Program Gallery on the PTA national website.

Visual artworks and photographs that receive national awards will not be returned until January 2011 (following completion of the gallery) or until officially released by the national PTA office. In some cases, artwork is displayed in other shows and exhibits. Please notify all students and parents that the national office tries its best to return artwork to students within the above-mentioned time frame; however, if the artwork is being used to promote the Reflections Program, it may not be returned until a later date. The national PTA office will inform all national award-winning students and their parents of any outside exhibits or showings of the Reflections Program national award recipients.

The national PTA office does not return literature, musical composition, dance choreography, or film production entries submitted to the national level of judging.

State PTA Artwork Return Policy

Please check with your state PTA office for its policy on returning artwork. Each state is responsible for returning artwork to participants as its policy specifies.

In case the family did not keep a personal copy, and for unit files, it is suggested that you make copies of any literature, musical composition, dance choreography, and film production entries submitted to the next level of judging.

Originality

All entries into the Reflections Program must be new pieces of artwork inspired by the current year's theme and created expressly for the program. Artwork produced before the dissemination of the theme or created and used for another competition or program may not be submitted.

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. 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—the dance choreography or film production (including screenplay, camerawork, and directing) or musical composition (including written score and any lyrics), etc.—must be the creative product of one student only. (See the specific arts area rules for details.)

Use of copyrighted material is prohibited in the literature, musical composition, visual arts, and photography categories. This includes the use of copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material.

Examples of copyrighted materials:

- Cartoon characters from television, videos, and comic books are copyrighted. Even if the character is in a new setting, the character itself is copyrighted and is not to be used.
- Copyrighted material from the Internet is not to be used.
- Advertisements and advertising ideas from print, film, TV, or radio are not to be used.
- Using a musical theme from an existing copyrighted composition (printed music) is not acceptable.
- Copyrighted recorded music is not to be used.
- Copyrighted photographs, especially from print media, are not to be used.
- Copyrighted photographs or stock photography may not be used as a subject for any visual arts entries.

Use of copyrighted music in dance choreography and film production entries is acceptable. The title, composer, and performer of any music used must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form. Use of any other copyrighted material is prohibited.

Misuse of the above materials constitutes plagiarism—taking and using another’s ideas, words, or inventions as one’s own.

Please note: Photographs, visual artworks, and films 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. A collage should be judged for its whole, not by its parts, and whether the resulting work stands as a creative, *original* work of art on its own.

Plagiarized and Resubmitted Entries

Occasionally, entries submitted to the Reflections Program are ineligible. Two of the most common reasons for declaring an entry ineligible are plagiarism and resubmission. The Reflections Program rules define plagiarism as taking and using another person’s ideas, writings, or inventions as one’s own. The rules also state that only new pieces of artwork **inspired by the theme** are acceptable. If a student submits an entry that was created and submitted the previous year, it is ineligible because all artwork needs to express the current year’s theme. Recommended procedures for dealing with both plagiarized and resubmitted entries follow.

Most pieces that have been plagiarized fall in the visual arts category; however, the other categories are vulnerable as well. When students use another artist’s work to gain recognition from PTA, a remedy is needed to protect the integrity of the program.

Here's what you can do to maintain the Reflections Program's integrity:

- Assume that there will be entries that are not original.
- Institute a process to confirm originality.
- Alert judges to the possibility that some pieces might not be original.
- Seek judges' guidance for determining originality if a piece is questionable.
- Check questionable entries via the Internet. Google is a great tool. For example, if the submitted visual arts entry or photograph is of a famous person, type in that person's name and search listed websites to see if the image is from a book cover or a collection of published photos.

The discovery that an artwork is ineligible can be very disappointing. The rules clearly state that plagiarized entries should be disqualified and returned to the student. All levels of the program—local, council, district/region, state, and national—need to be unified in their efforts to deal with this issue. The following are necessary procedures for managing a plagiarized or resubmitted work:

- At the level of discovery, return the piece to the student and let the student know why the piece has been disqualified. If the piece is discovered at the council, district/region, state, or national level, the arts chair at that level will notify the local arts chair that the submitted piece is ineligible and then return it to the student.
- If judging has already occurred at the level of discovery, have the level-of-discovery arts chair (and prior-level arts chair, if applicable) determine if awards (including award money, pins, certificates, etc.) should be returned.
- If judging has not occurred at the level of discovery, have the prior-level arts chair determine if the award should be returned (if applicable).
- If it is not too late, identify another piece for recognition and forward that piece to the next level.

The arts chair and local unit will need to work with the student and the student's family to help the student understand the seriousness of copying someone else's work and claiming it as their own. School counselors or teachers might also be able to provide assistance in helping the student deal with the discovery and the consequences.



PTA Reflections Program Theme Search

STUDENT SUBMISSION FORM | 2011–2012 THEME

The national PTA organization is looking for a theme for the 2011–2012 Reflections Program year. The student who submits the winning entry will receive \$100, and his or her theme will be presented at the 2010 PTA National Convention. Please review the past themes listed on the next page. Repeat themes will not be considered. Use this form to submit theme ideas. Only signed original forms will be considered. **Please submit entries to your state PTA office.**

State deadline for theme submissions: _____ **November 1, 2009** _____

Local PTA/PTSA name _____

PTA/PTSA president's name _____

PTA/PTSA address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Daytime phone () _____ E-mail address _____

Eight-digit PTA ID 00 _ _ _ _ _ School name _____

Student's name _____ Grade _____

Student's address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Daytime phone () _____ E-mail address _____

Theme idea

Student's signature

Parent/guardian's signature

NOTE: All entries must be received in the State PTA Office
by November 1, 2009 to be considered. NO Facsimiles will be accepted.

Mail to: California State PTA
Attention: Reflections Coordinator
2327 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

PTA Reflections Program Themes: 1969 to 2011

Repeat themes will not be considered.

Reflections: Children and Youth Mirror Their World	1969–1970	If I Had a Wish	1990–1991
Reflections: Children and Youth Look to Tomorrow	1970–1971	Exploring New Beginnings	1991–1992
Reflections: America, The Beautiful, The Ugly	1971–1972	Imagine That	1992–1993
Reflections: This Is Our Country	1972–1973	If I Could Give the World a Gift	1993–1994
From Sea to Shining Sea	1973–1974	Dare to Discover	1994–1995
Our Heritage—Our Hopes	1974–1975	Just Open Your Eyes and See	1995–1996
Spirit of '76 – Miracle of America	1975–1976	It Could Happen	1996–1997
What the World Needs Now	1976–1977	Wouldn't It Be Great If	1997–1998
Love Is...	1977–1978	Suddenly you turn around and...	1998–1999
Look Out Your Window	1978–1979	Anything is possible...	1999–2000
Behind the Gates of Tomorrow	1979–1980	It would be really strange if...	2000–2001
What a Family Means to Me	1980–1981	I hold in my hand...	2001–2002
What Makes Me Smile	1981–1982	Signs of Courage	2002–2003
Life in These United States	1982–1983	I am really happy when...	2003–2004
I Have a Dream	1983–1984	A Different Kind of Hero	2004–2005
What Sparks My Imagination	1984–1985	I Wonder Why...	2005–2006
From Liberty's View	1985–1986	My Favorite Place	2006–2007
In Celebration: A Past to Remember, A Future to Mold	1986–1987	I Can Make a Difference by...	2007–2008
Wonders of the World	1987–1988	Wow!	2008–2009
Proud Experiences	1988–1989	Beauty is...	2009–2010
Where Does the Sky End?	1989–1990	Together We Can	2010–2011



“Beauty is . . .”

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program

GENERAL STUDENT PARTICIPATION RULES

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

The theme for the 2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program is “Beauty is...” Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.

Student Eligibility Through Local PTAs

Students must participate in the Reflections Program through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing. Parent groups not affiliated with the national PTA organization 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 Reflections Program. A student may develop an entry in or outside of school.

Grade Divisions

Students may enter the Reflections Program in the appropriate division for their grade. The divisions are as follows:

- Primary: **preschool–grade 2**
- Intermediate: **grades 3–5**
- Middle/Junior: **grades 6–8**
- Senior: **grades 9–12**

If students do not fall under specific grade divisions, the national PTA organization suggests that they be grouped as follows:

- Primary: **up to age 7**
- Intermediate: **ages 8–10**
- Middle/Junior: **ages 11–13**
- Senior: **ages 14+**

It is the responsibility of the local PTA/PTSA to determine the appropriate division if necessary.

Arts Areas

Students may submit works in any of six arts areas:

- Dance choreography
- Film production
- Literature
- Musical composition
- Photography
- Visual arts

The national PTA organization does not limit the number of entries a student may submit.

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. 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—the dance choreography or film production (including screenplay, camerawork, and directing) or musical composition (including written score and any lyrics), etc.—must be the creative product of one student only. (See the specific arts area rules for details.)

Use of copyrighted material (other than recorded music in dance choreography and film production entries) is prohibited.

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 students.

Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may complete the form.

Students have the option of titling their works. If a work has a title, the title must be included on the Student Entry Form. If the work has no title, please write "Untitled." All entries must include an artist statement that describes how the piece relates to the theme. For most arts areas, students must also answer a few questions about how they created their works; see Required Information on the Student Entry Form.

Required Artist Statement

Each participant is required to submit an artist statement that describes what inspired him or her to create the work and how it relates to the theme. The artist statement is mandatory for all entries in all grade divisions. The statement should not exceed 250 words; there is no minimum length. The Student Entry Form provides a space for the artist statement; if the statement does not fit in the space given, it may be written on a separate sheet and attached to the Student Entry Form. Make sure the student's full name appears on any sheet attached to the Student Entry Form.

Children with Disabilities

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. The national PTA organization 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 may vary. Check with your state PTA for its guidelines.

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, district, and council deadlines. Entries are judged at the local level and the top entries are forwarded to the next level of judging (council, district, or state). Direct all questions regarding deadlines or rules to your Reflections coordinator at your council or district PTA office. The national PTA organization does not record deadlines for local, council, district, or state PTAs.

Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, mastery of the medium, and interpretation of the theme. Mastery of the medium in the context of the national Reflections Program pertains to the level of skill the student demonstrates in the basic principles/techniques of the arts area. However, a well-developed concept is more important than technique. Entries will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

The Reflections Program makes no restriction on content or subject in artwork. Students who are submitting entries need to meet school and/or local and state PTA standards.

Each PTA determines its own judges for the program. Under no condition may parents or students contact the judges to dispute the status of an entry. All decisions of judges are final.



“Beauty is . . .”

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program

LOCAL, COUNCIL, AND DISTRICT/REGION PTA INFORMATION:
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Participation

What is the deadline for my unit? All local, council, and district deadlines must be set in accordance with established state deadlines. The national PTA office does not set, alter, or record local or state deadlines for the Reflections Program. Please contact your council/district PTA.

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.

May students use a piece of artwork created for another arts competition? All entries into the Reflections Program must be new pieces of artwork inspired by the current year’s theme and created expressly for the program. Artwork produced before the dissemination of the theme or created and used for another competition or program may not be submitted.

May students participate through a local PTA not affiliated with their school? State PTAs may adopt their own policies regarding this situation. The national PTA organization requires only that national entries come from local PTAs/PTSAs in good standing.

May students no longer attending a PTA school still enter the Reflections Program through their former school? State PTAs establish their own policies regarding this situation. Since some states restrict this practice, please contact your state PTA about its participation policy.

May home-schooled students participate in the Reflections Program? State PTAs may adopt their own policies regarding this situation. The national PTA organization requires only that national entries come from local PTAs/PTSAs in good standing.

Under what division should developmentally challenged students participate? 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. The national PTA organization 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 may vary. Check with your state PTA for its guidelines.

May developmentally or physically challenged students receive help from a parent or teacher? In literature and musical composition, students who are physically challenged may dictate to another person who may type or write down the original literary work or musical notation. Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student’s original work. Any other rules or policies regarding developmentally or physically challenged students are left up to the discretion of each state PTA and may be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Arts Areas

Use of Copyrighted Material

May students use copyrighted material as a source for their artwork? Use of copyrighted material is not acceptable in any submission, with the following exceptions:

Photographs, visual artworks, and films 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. A collage should be judged for its whole, not by its parts, and whether the resulting work stands as a creative, *original* work of art on its own.

Dance choreography and film production entries may use copyrighted music. The title, composer, and performer of any music used must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form.

What should an arts chair do if it is discovered that a child has plagiarized an entry?

Unfortunately, plagiarism is not uncommon. Plagiarized entries should be disqualified and returned to the student. If a plagiarized entry has already received an award, the arts chair needs to determine if the award (including award money, pins, certificates, etc.) should be returned. The arts chair and local unit will need to work with the student and the student's family to help the student understand the seriousness of copying someone else's work and claiming it as their own. School counselors or teachers might also be able to provide assistance in helping the student deal with the discovery and the consequences.

Dance Choreography

Does the choreographer (the student submitting the entry) have to be one of the performers?

The choreography must be the work of one student and must demonstrate both creativity and interpretation of the theme. There may be up to three dancers. The choreographer need not be one of the dancers.

Can a martial arts, gymnastics, ice skating, or synchronized swimming performance be submitted as a dance choreography entry? A dance choreography entry may employ any number of diverse forms of dance and/or inspiration from many areas, including sports. However, the primary choreography must utilize some of the core principles of dance. The entry submitted should not be a recording of a demonstration or routine used in a meet or competition for any sport.

How is traditional dance judged for originality and/or creativity? The modification of the steps and the interpretation of the dance are considered when judging a traditional dance for creativity and/or originality. 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.

Film Production

Does the student submitting the entry have to appear in the film? The student must be the director, screenwriter, and cameraperson. He or she does not have to appear in the film. If any minors appear in a film, the student submitting the entry should obtain the consent of the minors' parents/guardians. The names of any persons who appear in the film must be listed on the Student Entry Form.

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, mastery of the medium, and interpretation of the theme.

Musical Composition

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

Photography and Visual Arts

May students submit computer-manipulated photos or visual arts pieces generated on a computer? The use of digital manipulation in the areas of photography and visual arts should be noted on the Student Entry Form, along with the software used.

Display of Artworks

What student information can be displayed with artworks? When artwork is on display, label the back of the piece with only the student's name, school, and town. Do not have the Student 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 Student Entry Forms to artwork for returning to the student or sending on to the next judging level.

National Awards

How will I know if a child in my unit wins a national award? The announcement of national Reflections Program award winners occurs in May each year. The national PTA office issues a press release and sends an e-mail to all state PTA offices and state arts chairs about the winners. The states are responsible for notifying students and units of national awards, with the exception of the Outstanding Interpretation Award recipients. The national PTA office personally notifies the Outstanding Interpretation Award recipients.

When are the national awards mailed? The national Reflections Program awards and certificates are mailed after the PTA National Convention, by the end of July.



“Beauty is . . .”

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program | VISUAL ARTS

Students must adhere to the General Student Participation Rules as well as the following Visual Arts Rules.

Description

A visual arts entry must be an original print, drawing, painting, collage, photographic collage, metal etching or punch work, fiber work, or computer-generated artwork that relates to the current Reflections Program theme.

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. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Presentation

- All art must be flat and may not be more than 3/8 inch thick. This includes all two-dimensional materials and images, including small, flat items (such as string, fabric, and screening) that have maximum surface contact with the face of the image. Nothing three-dimensional (noodles, beans, beads, boxes, etc.) may extend off the surface of a work.
- No art may exceed 24 inches by 30 inches, including a mat.
- Entries may be submitted on paper, canvas board, cardboard, hot or cold pressboard, or canvas (not to exceed 3/8-inch thickness).
- Mount all paper or canvas entries on sturdy cardboard mats, but not in wood, metal, plastic, or glass frames.
- Protecting the work with shrink-wrap or a transparent plastic cover is optional but highly recommended.
- Lamination is discouraged because it can permanently damage the surface of the artwork.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a sheet protector and secure it with masking tape to the back of the artwork on top of the shrink-wrap.
- Include the title and required artist statement on the Student Entry Form. If the entry has no title, please write “Untitled.”

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, give the dimensions of the piece (including any mat) and describe the medium (crayons, oil on canvas, etc.).

Works Not Accepted

- Sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, and other three-dimensional artwork
- Reproductions or enlargements of other artwork

Use of Copyrighted Material

Use of copyrighted material, including any copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material, is not acceptable in any visual arts submission, with the following exceptions:

Visual artworks 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. A collage should be judged for its whole, not by its parts, and whether the resulting work stands as a creative, *original* work of art on its own.



“Beauty is . . .”

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program | DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

Students must adhere to the General Student Participation Rules as well as the following Dance Choreography Rules.

Description

A dance choreography entry must be an original choreographed dance recorded on a CD or DVD. The choreography must be the work of one student and must demonstrate creativity and interpretation of the current Reflections Program theme. It is suggested that the required artist statement be given at the beginning of the recording, in addition to being written on the Student Entry Form.

There may be up to three dancers performing the choreography. The choreographer may be the performer or one of the performers, but does not have to be. Costumes are not necessary. If costumes are used, however, the choreographer must also create the costumes or directly note that the costumes are not his or her original work.

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. A well-developed concept is more important than technique. Therefore, it is very important that the student show a clear relation of the dance choreography to the theme. The connection should be made evident through the use of song, props, and the dance itself.

Traditional Dance

The modification of the steps and the interpretation of the dance are considered when judging a traditional dance for creativity and/or originality. 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.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed three minutes.
- The choreography should directly relate to the theme.
- Submit two (2) CDs or DVDs of a performance of the choreography.
- The choreographer is not required to be the (or one of the) performer(s).
- Please state your artist statement at the beginning of the recording (the artist statement is not considered part of the three minutes of the entry).

Format

- Submissions should be in one of the following file formats:
 - .MPG / .MPEG
 - .MOV / .QT (QuickTime Video)
 - .WMV (Windows Media Video)
- The recorded performance should be saved as a file on the CDs/DVDs, not as a CD/DVD movie.
- Submit the two (2) CDs/DVDs in plastic or cardboard containers; identify both the CDs/DVDs and the containers with the student's name, grade division, state, and year.
- Pack the two (2) CDs/DVDs in a large envelope.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a clear sheet protector; then secure the sheet protector to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.
- Include the title and required artist statement on the Student Entry Form. If the entry has no title, please write “Untitled.”

Recommendations for Quality Recordings

- 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.).
- Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording.

Music

The title, composer, and performer of any background music must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form. If the entry's connection to the theme is expressed in the song choice, this should be explained in the artist statement.

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, in addition to crediting any background music, please state who performed the choreography. (Please obtain parental consent for any minors who appear in the performance.)



“Beauty is . . .”

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program | FILM PRODUCTION

Students must adhere to the General Student Participation Rules as well as the following Film Production Rules.

Description

A film production entry must be an original work of fiction or nonfiction relating to the current Reflections Program theme. Entries may be with or without sound.

The student submitting the entry must be the director, screenwriter, and cameraperson. If using a computer, the student must do all the work. If the student chooses to appear in the production, a camera on a tripod may be used. All storyboarding, editing, etc. must be done by the student.

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. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Styles

- **Animation:** Animation may be drawn; created from a collection of objects, clay, torn paper, etc.; or computer-generated.
- **Narrative:** A story told through the images created on film or computer. (This is not the same as a storyteller narrating an original story.)
- **Documentary:** Nonfiction documentation using narration, facts, and images.
- **Experimental:** Video that explores movement, light, and montage.
- **Media presentations:** Computer-generated media presentations must be completely original, and the student must do all the work. Cutting and pasting from other sources is not permitted.
- **PowerPoint presentations will not be accepted.** Students must adhere to copyright laws. Software should be used only to enhance and present the work of the student. Due to the fact that most graphic elements of PowerPoint presentations are copyrighted clip art, use of this program is prohibited.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- The film should directly relate to the theme.
- The student submitting the entry is not required to appear in the film.
- Entries should be submitted on two (2) CDs or DVDs.

Format

- Submissions should be in one of the following file formats:
 - .MPG / .MPEG
 - .MOV / .QT (QuickTime Video)
 - .WMV (Windows Media Video)
- The entry should be saved as a file on the two (2) CDs/DVDs, not as a CD/DVD movie.
- Submit the CDs/DVDs in plastic or cardboard containers; identify both the CDs/DVDs and the containers with the student’s name, grade division, state, and year.
- Pack the two (2) CDs/DVDs in a large envelope.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a clear sheet protector; then secure the sheet protector to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.
- Include the title and required artist statement on the Student Entry Form. If the entry has no title, please write “Untitled.”

Recommendations for Quality Recordings

- Use a tripod to hold the camera still.
- Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if shooting indoors.
- Think about sound. Use an extra microphone (boom mike) if needed. Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.).

Music

The title, composer, and performer of any background music must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form. If the connection to the theme is expressed in the song choice, this should be explained in the artist statement.

Use of Other Copyrighted Material

Films 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.

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, in addition to crediting any background music, please answer the following:

- Who appears in your film? (Please obtain parental consent for any minors who appear in your film.)
- Was a computer used? If so, name the software and hardware.



“Beauty is . . .”

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program | LITERATURE

Students must adhere to the General Student Participation Rules as well as the following Literature Rules.

Description

A literature entry may be a work of fiction or nonfiction. Prose, poetry, and drama are all accepted. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.

Literature 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. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Presentation

- Entries must not exceed 2,000 words.
- One original and two copies of the entry are to be submitted.
- Entries may be handwritten or typed, either on a typewriter or with a computer.
- Illustrated entries, including “books,” with pictures drawn by the student are acceptable; however, only literary content is judged.
- Collections of poems or short stories are not accepted. A student may submit more than one work, but each one must be submitted separately.
- Entries are to reflect grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Format

- Submit entries on any kind of paper, not to exceed 8½ inches by 11 inches in size.
- Submit the original and two copies of the entry in a manila file folder with the Student Entry Form stapled to the back of the folder, or place all the materials in a clear sheet protector.
- Do not mount entries.
- Do not submit entries with text on both sides of the page.
- Write the student’s name on the back of each page in case pages become separated.
- Number all pages.
- Include the title and required artist statement on the Student Entry Form. If the entry has no title, please write “Untitled.”

Dictation and Typing

- Students may have their entries typed by another person as long as the original work or a copy of the original work is attached.
- Students who are physically challenged or students in kindergarten or 1st grade may dictate to another person who may type or write down the original work.
- Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student’s original work.

Translation

- Students for whom English is not their first language may submit literature entries in their own language. **An interpretive translation 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.



“Beauty is . . .”

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program | MUSICAL COMPOSITION

Students must adhere to the General Student Participation Rules as well as the following Musical Composition Rules.

Description

A musical composition entry may be for voice, instruments, or a combination of voice and instruments. Lyrics may or may not be included in vocal compositions. The composition is not to exceed five minutes. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.

The use of composition software is permitted. Students are strongly discouraged from submitting highly edited MIDI sequences or audio files. The recording submitted must capture performers in real-time. The entry may not include imported MIDI or other source files, or use algorithmic composition software.

Use of notation software for the purpose of creating scores and printed parts is permitted. Whether the score is handwritten or computer-generated, appropriate instrumentation and voicing are required for the performance.

Musical 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. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

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/Junior and Senior:** Notation, either traditional, tablature, or electronic, is required. The notation should aid the listener and serve as a guide through the piece.

Adults may not assist. Physically challenged students may dictate to another person who may write the notation. The quality or accuracy of the notation and performance support the musical idea, but they are not considered judging criteria.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- Submit two (2) CD recordings of a performance of the composition.
- Students are not required to perform their own compositions.
- A student’s composed work may be performed by a group.
- Score size:
 - Entries should be no larger than 11 inches by 14 inches.
 - Band and orchestra compositions may be 11 inches by 16 inches.
 - Do not mount or bind the scores.

Format

- Submit two (2) CDs in plastic or cardboard containers; identify both the CDs and the containers with the student's name, grade division, state, and year.
- Pack the CDs with the score (if required) in a large envelope. Write the student's name on the back of each page of the score in case pages become separated.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a clear sheet protector; then secure the sheet protector to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.
- Include the title and required artist statement on the Student Entry Form. If the entry has no title, please write "Untitled."

Recommendations for Quality Recordings

- Make the room you record in as quiet as possible. Close windows and turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.). Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument or speakers.
- Don't record at too loud (in the red zone on the meter) or too soft (meter barely moving) a level.
- Record a short test and listen to it while watching the meter. If needed, improve recording quality by changing the record volume or microphone location.
- Return to the beginning of each of the CDs and record two seconds of silence; then start performing your composition. Finish with another two seconds of silence.

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, please answer the following:

- Who performed your composition?
- Did you use traditional instrumentation or a synthesizer?
- If you used MIDI, what software and hardware did you use to compose your work?
- If you included lyrics, how do they work with your composition?



“Beauty is . . .”

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program | PHOTOGRAPHY

Students must adhere to the General Student Participation Rules as well as the following Photography Rules.

Description

A photography entry must be an original black-and-white or color image, or group of images, produced by a photographic process. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.

The entry may incorporate such techniques as montage, multiple exposure, negative sandwiches, and photograms. Images may be manipulated conventionally or digitally. Images should demonstrate the student’s proper use of photographic techniques such as depth of field and exposure. The images may be created using various lenses, filters, and light sources. Photographs with added graphics over the image, including lettering, are not acceptable.

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. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Presentation

- A single print or collage may not exceed 11 inches by 14 inches, including a mat.
- Print the entries on paper or other two-dimensional material.
- Mount all prints on a cardboard mat, poster board, or some other sturdy material.
- Protecting the work with shrink-wrap or a transparent plastic cover is optional but highly recommended.
- Framed entries, original film (negatives or transparencies), and multidimensional pieces are not accepted.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a sheet protector and secure it with masking tape to the back of the photograph on top of the shrink-wrap.
- Include the title and required artist statement on the Student Entry Form. If the entry has no title, please write “Untitled.”

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form,

- Give the dimensions of the piece (including any mat).
- Specify the location and date of the shot.
- Describe the type of camera and process used in preparing the piece.

Use of Copyrighted Material

Use of copyrighted material, including copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material, is not acceptable in any photography submission, with the following exceptions:

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.

Council Name: _____

District #: _____

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program STUDENT ENTRY FORM

Theme: "Beauty is . . ."

Directions: Please type or print clearly in black or blue ink (do not use pencil). Completely fill out the form down to and including the required signatures. Leave the boxed area for local PTA information blank. If you need more space, use the back of this form or an extra sheet of paper. Be sure to write your full name on any additional pages.

Grade Division (check one)

Grade _____ Primary: preschool–grade 2

Age _____ Intermediate: grades 3–5

Middle/Junior: grades 6–8

Gender M F Senior: grades 9–12

Arts Area (check one)

Dance Choreography

Film Production

Literature

Musical Composition

Photography

Visual Arts

Title of Work

Required Artist Statement

Explain how your work relates to the theme. _____

See attached (Please print your name on any attached sheets.)

REQUIRED INFORMATION

Photography and Visual Arts: Give the dimensions of the work in inches, including mat. L _____ W _____

Photography: Location/date of shot: _____

Describe the type of camera and process used in preparing the piece. _____

Visual Arts: Describe the medium (crayons, oil on canvas, etc.). _____

Dance Choreography: Name(s) of performer(s): _____

Film Production: Name(s) of person(s) appearing in your film: _____

Was a computer used? If so, name the software and hardware. _____

Dance Choreography and Film Production: Credit the background music below (title, composer, and performer). _____

Musical Composition: Check one: Traditional Instrumentation Synthesizer

Name(s) of person(s) who performed your composition: _____

Was a computer used? If so, name the software and hardware. _____

Are lyrics included? If so, how do your lyrics complement your composition? _____

----- F o l d h e r e -----

Student's first name _____ Middle intl. _____ Last name _____

Address 1 _____ Address 2 _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone ☎ () _____ E-mail ✉ _____

PTA includes the national, state, district/region, council, and local PTA/PTSA organization or unit. I grant PTA permission to use my works for commercial or noncommercial use, including but not limited to public presentation of the work and reproduction of the work in print, electronic, and multimedia formats to promote the Reflections Program. PTA may continue to use my work as long as it has access to a copy or to a slide. PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged works. Entries may not be returned. I understand that I must participate in the Reflections Program through a PTA/PTSA in good standing. I affirm that this is my own original work. As parent of the student, I grant PTA permission to use and publish my child's name and school. **I understand that the submission of my entry into the Reflections Program constitutes acceptance of the above conditions.**

Signature of student _____ Signature of parent/legal guardian (necessary if child is under 18 years) _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL PTA Check one: PTA PTSA Local eight-digit PTA ID: _____

Local chair name _____ Official PTA/PTSA name _____

PTA address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____ Phone () _____

Local PTA good standing status: Membership dues paid date ___/___/___ Insurance paid date ___/___/___ Bylaws approval date ___/___/___

NATIONAL PTA 2009-2010 REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

PTA PARTICIPATION FORM

“Beauty is...”

This form must accompany entries. Please complete this form and forward with your entries to the council or district level of judging. If you do not have accurate figures, please give your best estimate of the number of students who participated in the Reflections Program from your Unit.

Name of Unit _____

Council _____ District _____

Reflections Chairman _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ E-Mail _____

Total number of entries (by age division) submitted by students belonging to your Unit:					
ENTRIES	Primary (Preschool–2)	Intermediate (3–5)	Middle/Jr. (6–8)	Senior (9–12)	TOTAL RECEIVED
Literature					
Visual Arts					
Photography					
Musical Composition					
Dance Choreography					
Film/Video Production					
TOTAL entries per grade					

Total number of student entries (by age division) forwarded to your Council (or District if you have no Council).						
ENTRIES	Primary (Preschool–2)	Intermediate (3–5)	Middle/Jr. (6–8)	Senior (9–12)	RECEIVED	FORWARDED
Literature						
Visual Arts						
Photography						
Musical Composition*						
Dance Choreography*						
Film/Video Production*						
TOTAL entries per grade						

This form must accompany entries for the Council/District level of judging. Check student entry forms to see that all information on the Official Entry Form is complete.

**NOTE:* For Musical Composition, Dance Choreography, and Film/Video Production you must send two (2) CDs/DVDs to the next level for judging. It is suggested you also make a copy for your records.