



“Beauty is . . .” 2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program Rules

All 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: Students must participate in the Reflections Program through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing. 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**

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**

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. 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.

Deadlines : Students must submit all works by Friday, November 20, 2009 to the RCV office. Entries are judged at the local level and the top 4 entries in each category for each grade division are forwarded to the next level of judging (MCCPTA).

Judging: All 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. RCV PTA Reflections Committee 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.

For each type of entry, students must adhere to the General Student Participation Rules as well as those of the specific category.

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY 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.

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.)

- The choreography should directly relate to the theme.
- Submit a CD or DVD 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 CD/DVD, not as a CD/DVD movie.
- Submit the CD/DVD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the CD/DVD and the container with the student's name, grade division, state, and year.
- Pack the CD/DVD 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.”

FILM PRODUCTION: 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 CD or DVD.

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 CD/DVD, not as a CD/DVD movie.
- Submit the CD/DVD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the CD/DVD and the container with the student’s name, grade division, state, and year.
- Pack the CD/DVD 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.

LITERATURE 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.

MUSICAL COMPOSITION 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 for Primary and Intermediate: No notation is required. Iconic notation may be submitted. Iconic notation is “made-up” notation.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- Submit a CD recording 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 the CD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the CD and the container with the student’s name, grade division, state, and year.
- Pack the CD 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 noisemaking 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 the CD 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?

PHOTOGRAPHY 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, 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.

VISUAL ARTS 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. NO 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, 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.