

# Reflections - Frequently Asked Questions

## Participation

**Who is eligible to participate?** In Texas, participation in the Reflections Program is open to any student who attends a school with a PTA/PTSA that is in good standing.

**Must the entries be created at school?** Students may create their entries at school or home, as they wish.

**Is there a limit to how many entries a student may submit?** National PTA and Texas PTA do not limit how many entries a student may submit.

**Under what division should developmentally challenged students participate?** National PTA believes that each child with a disability should be provided a free and appropriate public education. Therefore, the Reflections Program at the national level does not have a special division for students with disabilities. National PTA believes it is the right of parents to place their child in the Reflections Program grade division that best reflects the child's developmental age. As of 2006 Texas PTA has chosen to comply with the National guideline.

**May developmentally or physically challenged students receive help from a parent or teacher?** These students, along with Early Childhood, Kindergarten, and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade students, may dictate to another person who may type or write down the original work.

## Use of copyrighted material

**May students use copyrighted material as a source for their artwork?** Use of copyrighted material is not acceptable in visual arts collages. Photo renderings must be from non-copyrighted material.

## Literature

**Must ESL students enter in English?** Students for whom English is not a first language may submit an entry in their native language. This entry must be accompanied by an interpretive translation. Translators should make every effort to retain the same level of language and accuracy as that of the student's original entry.

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

## Musical Composition

**May a student 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

**May a student submit computer-manipulated photos?** National PTA accepts electronic as well as film photos.

## Visual Arts

**May a student submit computer-generated visual artworks?** National PTA accepts visual arts pieces generated on a computer.

## Dance Choreography and Film/Video

Texas PTA Reflections will include these two arts categories that are new for 2006-2007. Please visit [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org) for more information about the rules for these categories.

## Artist Statement

**Is an artist statement required on the entry form?** It is not required, but it is strongly recommended.

## Deadlines

**What is the deadline for entering?** Beginning with 2006-2007, Texas PTA has set deadlines for all levels. Entries are due to the campus level by October 31. Advancing entries are then due to Council by November 30. Further advancing entries are due to Area by January 2. If these dates fall during a weekend, then the deadline will be the following Monday.

## Return of Artwork

National PTA and Texas PTA do not return Literature, Music Composition, Dance Choreography, or Film/Video entries. Visual Arts and Photography entries will be returned by Texas PTA to Area Presidents who will then be responsible for their return to students. If your artwork has been chosen to be in an exhibit that occurs after the end of the school year Texas PTA will return that artwork to your home address for a \$10 fee to cover packaging and shipping.

## Student information protection

**How does a PTA protect student information on artwork?** Do not attach the Official Entry Form to the back of the artwork in a display setting. No one outside of PTA should have access to student information. Develop a system to easily match and reattach Official Entry Forms to artwork for returning to the artist or sending on to the next judging level.