



PTA REFLECTIONS 2026–2027

Student Arts Contest • Theme: “What My Culture Means to Me”

WHAT IS REFLECTIONS?

National PTA’s *Reflections* program invites Pre-K–12 students create original art inspired by the annual theme. Students may enter one or more categories through their local PTA; qualifying entries may advance to higher levels of recognition.

Divisions: Primary (Pre-K–2) • Intermediate (3–5) • Middle School (6–8) • High School (9–12) The Accessible Arts division is open to students of all grades and ages and offers division-specific accommodations to students with disabilities.

RULES FOR EVERY ENTRY

- Artwork created specifically for Reflections and inspired by this year’s theme.
- Original work by ONE student only; artistic help/collaboration from adults or other students is not allowed (except permitted in Accessible Artist Division).
- Include a unique title and a student-written artist statement of 10–100 words explaining the work and its connection to the theme.
- If digital technology/software is used, the student must describe the tools and methods used (10–50 words). Technology may assist but may not supply the primary concept/design; entries may not be exclusively AI/generated or platform-provided content.
- Follow local/state PTA eligibility, submission method and deadline. Students submit through Local PTA—not directly to National PTA.

CATEGORIES

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY • Student must be the original choreographer; the student and others may perform. • Video: max 5 min / 1,000 MB; MP4, MOV or AVI. • Cite background music. No copied dances/trends; only minimal video editing—no added graphics/filters or heavy editing.	FILM PRODUCTION • Student must do the screenwriting, directing and editing. • Video: max 5 min / 1,000 MB; MP3, MOV or AVI. • No PowerPoint/template-based slide films. Use primarily original footage/media; cite background music and credit any minimal outside material.
LITERATURE • Accepted forms of fiction and nonfiction include prose, poetry, reflective essay, screen play and play script, narrative, and short story • Max 2,000 words. Submit as PDF; handwritten or typed on one-sided 8.5×11 pages; # pages. • Copyrighted/plagiarized writing is prohibited. Original illustrations may be included, but only the writing is scored.	MUSIC COMPOSITION • Student must be the composer; other people may perform. • Recording required for all entries; max 5 min / 1,000 MB; MP3, WAV. • Middle & high school entries also require score/notation (PDF). No copied composition or singing over an unoriginal accompaniment.
PHOTOGRAPHY • One original photographic work; no photo collections/collages or added graphics/text/icons. • JPEG/JPG/PNG. Digital image: at least 640×960 px and 300 dpi. Prints: 3×5 to 8×10; mounted size max 11×14; no frames. • Photomontages made from the student's own photos are allowed.	VISUAL ARTS • 2D and 3D original art accepted; no reproductions/enlargements of another artwork. • 2D: max 24×30 in. including matting; submit at least 1 digital image. No frames. • 3D: submit at least 3 digital images from different angles. JPEG/JPG/PNG; no loose materials or work requiring assembly/repair.

HOW ENTRIES ARE REVIEWED

Interpretation of Theme (40 pts) • Creativity (30 pts) • Technical Skill (30 pts)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE :

HOW TO SUBMIT:

QUESTIONS?:

<https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections/craft-an-entry>

