

2010–2011 National PTA Reflections Program

MUSICAL COMPOSITION RULES

Theme: “Together We Can...”

Students must adhere to the general 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 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.

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.

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. **Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Musical composition entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material.**

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

Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the **Official Entry Form**. Students who have not completely filled out the 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 sign his or her child's name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Official Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information in the righthand column).

Return of Artwork

National PTA does not return musical composition entries.

Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme.

Presentation

- Students must submit musical notation as required by their grade divisions.
 - 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.

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- 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.
- Recording requirements
 - All grade divisions must submit an audiocassette or CD recording of the composition.
 - Submit the audiocassette or CD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the audiocassette/CD and container with the student's name, grade division, state, and year.
 - Pack the audiocassette or CD with the score (if required) in a large envelope.
 - Secure the Official Entry Form to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.

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.
- If recording on cassette, use *Dolby B Noise Reductions* to reduce background tape hiss.
- 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.
- If recording on cassette, rewind to the beginning, record 15 seconds of silence, and then begin performing your composition. Finish with another 15 seconds of silence. CD submissions may reduce silence to two seconds.

Required Information

On the Official 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?

Required Artist Statement

On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme. This is required for all grade divisions

GENERAL STUDENT PARTICIPATION RULES

Students must adhere to the following general rules as well as the rules for their specific arts area.

1. Theme

The theme for the 2010–2011 program is “Together We Can...” **Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme are acceptable.**

2. Student eligibility through local PTA

Students must participate in the Reflections Program through a PTA /PTSA in good standing. Parent groups not affiliated with National PTA are not eligible to sponsor this program. It is the responsibility of the state and local PTA /PTSA to determine each student's eligibility in the Reflections Program. A student may develop an entry in or outside of school.

3. 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, National PTA 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.

4. Arts areas

Students may submit works in any of the six arts areas:

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

National PTA does not limit the number of entries a student may submit—ask about your school's requirements.

5. Children with disabilities

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. Check with your state PTA for its guidelines.

6. Deadlines

Each student must submit his or her work by the deadline established by his or her local PTA /PTSA. Each local PTA /PTSA sponsoring the program will set a deadline for entries in adherence with the state, district, and council needs.

These entries are judged, and the selected works are forwarded to the next level of judging (council, district, or state).

Direct all questions regarding deadlines or rules to your state PTA or state arts chair. **National PTA does not have deadlines for local, council, district, or state PTAs.**

7. Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of 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. Judges review entries based upon creativity, artistic merit, and interpretation of the theme.

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

8. Award recipient notification

State arts chairs will notify students who receive national recognition. State arts chairs will submit original photography and visual arts pieces to National PTA for the creation of the Reflections Program Gallery on the National PTA website.

9. Further information

Only your state PTA office and state PTA arts chair can provide you with information about your state's Reflections Program rules and deadlines.

2010-2011 PTA Reflections Program Student Entry Form

Theme:
"Together We
Can..."

Directions: Please print clearly. 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 name on any additional sheets of paper

Grade _____	_____	Grade Division (check one)	_____	Arts Area (check one)
Age _____	_____	Primary: Preschool–Grade 2	_____	Literature
	_____	Intermediate: Grades 3–5	_____	Musical Composition
	_____	Middle/Junior: Grades 6–8	_____	Photography-
	_____	Senior: Grades 9–12	_____	Visual Arts
			_____	Dance Choreography
			_____	Film/Video Production

Title of work (if any) _____

Required artist statement: How does your work connect 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: Describe the process used in preparing the piece. _____

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

Dance Choreography: Who performed your choreography? _____

Film/Video Production: Respond to the following:

Who appears in your video? _____

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

Dance Choreography and Film/Video Production: Credit the background music below.

Musical Composition: Respond to the following: Circle one: Traditional Instrumentation Synthesizer

Who performed your composition for your recording? _____

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 name _____ Last name _____

Address 1 _____ Teacher: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone () _____ E-mail address _____

National PTA includes the state, district, council, or local PTA/PTSA organization or unit. I grant National 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. National PTA may continue to use my work as long as it has access to a copy or to a slide. National 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. **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		Circle one: PTA	PTSA
Local chair first name _____	Local chair last name _____	Phone () _____	
E-mail _____	PTA/PTSA name _____		
PTA address _____	City _____	State _____	ZIP _____
Local Eight-Digit National PTA ID	00		

Local PTA good standing status	Membership dues date paid _____	Insurance paid date _____	Bylaws approval date _____
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