



National PTA Reflections®

Arts Category Rules



Choose one or more categories below to create original work that interprets the **2026-27 PTA Reflections theme: *What My Culture Means to Me***. Complete a student entry form and submit both to your PTA. *(Include arts category, grade and full name on back of artwork)*. Entries will be reviewed by experienced artists for interpretation of theme, creativity and technique. We look forward to celebrating your artistry and achievement in the arts!

Participation Requirements: The student or at least one person from their primary household must be a current member of the Local PTA where the student is participating. Each Local PTA may determine a date by which the member must join. For the full eligibility description and options for home-school families, virtual schools and non-PTA schools, please consult the Texas PTA Website at www.txpta.org/reflections-participation.

Entry Requirements: Each entry must be the original work of the participating student. Help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed except in the Accessible Arts Division (see Accessible Arts guidelines below). Other individuals may appear in or perform a student's work, but the work itself must be the creative product of one student only.

Use of copyrighted material is prohibited, except for recorded music in dance and film entries. Background music must be cited on the student entry form. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. *Plagiarism* is defined as using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Use of PowerPoint templates and generative elements (e.g., algorithmic techniques, artificial intelligence) is prohibited. Entries may include portions of copyrighted works; photos, printed type or digital media clippings, as long as those portions are used to create a new and different work of art. **Digital technology and/or software can be used to develop**, enhance, and/or present an entry, but may not provide the primary design and/or concept. Entrants must use the "Additional Details" field to provide a brief description of the tools and method used in the creation process, including any generative elements (10 to 50 words).

Dance Choreography: Solo and ensemble works of all dance styles are accepted. Entrant must be the choreographer and may also be the performer, or one of the performers. Entries with added graphics in the video are not accepted. If background music is used, cite on entry form. **Video** file must not exceed 5 min. and 1 GB in size. Accepted formats: AVI, FLV, WMV, MOV, MP4. **Packaging:** Check to see if your PTA is accepting entries digitally and follow their instructions. If not, place flash inside envelope with student entry form attached to outside in sheet protector.

Film Production: Accepted short film styles include: Animation, narrative, documentary, experimental or multimedia. Use of PowerPoint is prohibited. Entrant must be the screenwriter, cinematographer, editor and producer. A tripod and remote may be used. If used, cite background music on the entry form. **Video** file must not exceed 5 min. and 1 GB in size. Accepted formats: AVI, FLV, WMV, MOV, MP4. **Packaging:** Check to see if your PTA is accepting entries digitally and follow their instructions. If not, place flash inside envelope with student entry form attached to outside in sheet protector.

Literature: Accepted forms of fiction and nonfiction include: prose, poetry, drama, reflective essay, narrative and short story. Collections of literary work are not accepted. Entrants may write in their primary language as long as an interpretive English translation is provided. Original illustrations are accepted, but only the writing is judged. **Writing** must not exceed 2,000 words and may be handwritten or typed (single-sided, 8 1/2x11"). **Packaging:** Check to see if your PTA is accepting entries digitally and follow their instructions. If not, place 1 copy of literature inside folder with student entry form attached to outside in sheet protector.

Music Composition: All music styles and combinations of instrumentation are accepted. Software may be used to produce an audio recording. Entrant must be the composer and may also be the performer, or one of the performers. Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted. **Audio** file must not exceed 5 min. and 1 GB in size. Accepted formats: MP3, WAV. **Notation:** Required for middle and high school divisions - score, tablature or written reflective statement that provides a musically technical explanation of how your music was created (100 words or less). **Packaging:** Check to see if your PTA is accepting entries digitally and follow their instructions. If not, place flash inside envelope with student entry form attached to outside in sheet protector.

Photography: Photo must be a single print/digital image. Collages, collections of photos and added graphics are not accepted. Entrant must be the photographer and may use a variety of digital editing techniques. **Printed** images: between 3x5 to 8x10 inches. Glass frames are not accepted. **Digital** images: at least 640x960 pixels and 300 dpi resolution. Accepted file formats: JPEG, JPG, and PNG. **Packaging:** Check to see if your PTA is accepting entries digitally and follow their instructions. If not, attach student entry form to back with sheet protector.

2D Visual Arts: Accepted forms of visual art include: original print, drawing, painting, collage (cut and pasted materials), metal etching or punch work, fiber work or computer-generated artwork. Dimensions must not exceed 24x30 inches, including mat. Check to see if your PTA is accepting entries digitally and follow their instructions. ***Physical artwork**, attach student entry form to back with sheet protector. Cover front of artwork with paper, securing it along one edge to the back of artwork without covering form and draping over front. Do not wrap in plastic or laminate entry. **Digital** image dimensions must be at least 640x960 pixels and 300 dpi resolution. Accepted file formats: JPEG, JPG, and PNG. **These guidelines are specific to Texas PTA. Texas PTA has made the decision to only accept 2D Visual Arts entries.*

Accessible Arts Division: is open to students who identify as having a disability and may receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504. Students will participate against other Accessible Arts entries and are awarded as part of the division. Students may receive division-specific accommodations and non-artistic accommodations as outlined in the division guidelines. Students with disabilities who wish to enter the general category judging should follow the general rules and category guidelines, modified only by non-artistic accommodations specific and limited to the student's disability.