National PTA Reflections Program

By submitting artwork to the **National PTA Reflections Program**, entrants accept and agree to be bound by the official rules for participation as well as the entry requirements for their specific arts category and division. Additional state program requirements may apply. Any violation of these rules may, at PTA's discretion, result in disqualification. All decisions of the reviewers regarding this program are final and binding in all respects. (The "PTA" referred to in these rules include all PTAs reviewing the submission).

Official Rules

1. **ELIGIBILITY.** Students must participate through a local PTA/PTSA. **Each student's eligibility is determined by the state and local PTA/PTSA.** A student may develop an entry inside or outside of school.
2. **HOW TO ENTER.** Entrants must submit their artwork and student entry form to their local PTA/PTSA program according to local and state PTA procedures. Contact local PTA programs for deadlines and additional information.
3. **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.** Entrants must follow requirements and instructions specific to each arts category and, if applicable, Accessible Arts Division rules.
    a. Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the current year's theme may be submitted.
    b. Each entry must be the original work of one student only. Only one student may be recognized as the award recipient for each entry. 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 except in the Accessible Arts Division. Other individuals may appear in or perform a student's work, but the work itself must be the creative product of one student only.
    c. Each entry must contain a title, and all entries must include an artist statement. The artist statement communicates what inspired the work, how it relates to the theme and the content of the work. The statement must include at least 10 words and not exceed 100 words.
    d. 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).
4. **ARTS CATEGORIES.** There are six arts categories and students may enter the National PTA Reflections program in one or more arts categories. See additional entry requirements and further details outlined in arts category rules.
    a. **Dance Choreography:** Solo and ensemble works of all dance styles are accepted. Entrant must be the original choreographer and may also be the performer, or one of the performers. Entries with added graphics in the video are not accepted. If used, cite background music on the entry form (title, composer and performer). **Videos** must not exceed five minutes or 1,000 MB (1,000 megabyte). Accepted file formats: MP4, MOV, AVI.
    b. **Film Production:** Accepted short film styles include: Animation, narrative, documentary, experimental or media presentation. Use of PowerPoint is prohibited. Entrant must be the screenwriter, cinematographer, editor and producer. If used, cite background music on the entry form (title, composer and performer). **Videos** must not exceed five minutes or 1,000 MB. Accepted file formats: MP4, MOV, AVI.
    c. **Literature:** Accepted forms of fiction and nonfiction include: prose, poetry, reflective essay, screen play and play script, 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** can be handwritten or typed (8.5x11, one-sided) and up to 2,000 words. Number pages. Accepted file format: PDF.
    d. **Music Composition:** All music styles and combinations of instrumentation are accepted. Entrant must be the composer and may also be the performer, or one of the performers. Software may be used to produce an audio recording. Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted. **Audio recording** is required and must not exceed five minutes or 1,000 MB. Accepted file formats: MP3, WAV. **Notation** (score/tablature/reflective statement) is required for middle and high school divisions only and does not replace the required entry artist statement. Accepted file format: PDF. See guidelines for accepted notation details.

e. **Photography:** Photo must be a single print/digital image. Collages, collections of photos and/or photos with added graphics are not accepted. Entrant must be the photographer and may use a variety of digital editing techniques. **Print** images: between 3x5 to 8x10 inches. **Digital** images: at least 640x960 pixels and 300 dpi resolution. Accepted file formats: JPEG, JPG, PNG.

f. **Visual Arts:** Works of both fine and design arts in 2D or 3D formats are accepted. See guidelines for specifics. **2D** artworks must not exceed 24x30 inches, including matting and must include at least one digital image of artwork. **3D** artwork must contain 3 digital images of artwork at different angles. Accepted file formats: JPEG, JPG, PNG.

5. **DIVISIONS.** Students select the appropriate division for their grade:
   a. Primary (PreK-Grade 2)
   b. Intermediate (Grades 3-5)
   c. Middle School (Grades 6-8)
   d) High School (Grades 9-12)
   e) Accessible Arts (All grades welcome)

   Accessible Arts Division is open to students who identify as having a disability and may receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504. By participating, students compete against other students in the Accessible Arts Division and are awarded as part of the division. Participating students may receive division-specific accommodations and non-artistic accommodations as outlined in the division guidelines. Students who choose to participate in the Accessible Arts Division must also select an arts category and grade division. See division guidelines for details.

   Students with disabilities that do not wish to enter the Accessible Arts Division may compete in their relevant grade-level and will follow the general rules and arts category guidelines specific to their submissions, modified only by non-artistic accommodations specific and limited to the student's disability.

6. **COPYRIGHT.** Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. Use of copyrighted material, including any copyrighted cartoon characters, material downloaded from the internet, copyrighted recorded music or copyrighted photographs or stock images, is not acceptable, except for the following:
   - Entries 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.
   - If background music is used in dance choreography and film production entries, it must be cited on the entry form (title, composer and performer).
   - Visual arts, photography and film production entries may include portions of existing copyrighted works, such as photographs, magazine or digital media clippings and/or 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.
7. **FINALIST SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION.** Entries are reviewed at local, regional, state and national levels. Each PTA determines its own reviewers for the program. Entries will be reviewed primarily on how well the student uses their artistic vision to portray the theme, their originality and creativity. The National PTA Reflections® program makes no restrictions on content or subject matter in artwork submitted by the local, regional or state levels. National PTA reserves the right to use its sole discretion in selecting the submissions to be recognized at the national level. Under no condition may parents or students contact a reviewer to dispute the status/score of any entry. Each PTA in its sole discretion will select finalists for exhibition and provide awards/prizes. Awards are announced per local and state procedures. National awards are announced May 1 at PTA.org/Reflections.
8. **OWNERSHIP AND LICENSE.** Ownership in any submission shall remain the property of the entrant, but entry into this program constitutes entrant's irrevocable permission and consent that PTA may display, copy, reproduce, enhance, print, sublicense, publish, distribute and create derivative works for PTA purposes. PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged entries. Submission of entry into the PTA Reflections program constitutes acceptance of all rules and conditions.
9. **PARTICIPATING ENTITIES**. This program is administered by the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and PTA affiliates. Parent groups not affiliated with National PTA are not eligible to sponsor this program.

Local PTA Information			
LOCAL PTA	Vineyard Jr. High	NATIONAL PTA ID	
LOCAL PROGRAM CHAIR	Mrs. Dragotto	EMAIL	vjhptareflections@gmail.com

STUDENT NAME **GRADE** **AGE**

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S) **EMAIL** **PHONE**

MAILING ADDRESS **CITY** **STATE** **ZIP**

Ownership in any submission shall remain the property of the entrant, but entry into this program constitutes entrant's irrevocable permission and consent that PTA may display, copy, reproduce, enhance, print, sublicense, publish, distribute and create derivative works for PTA purposes. PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged entries. Submission of entry into the PTA Reflections program constitutes acceptance of all rules and conditions. I agree to the above statement and the National PTA Reflections Official Rules. Signatures (typed or handwritten) are required for all entries.

STUDENT SIGNATURE (Required for all entries) _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (Required for all entries) _____

CATEGORY AND DIVISION (All entrants must select a grade-level division and arts category.)	**GRADE DIVISION** (Check one)	**ARTS CATEGORY** (Check one)	
	☐ PRIMARY (PreK-Grade 2) ☐ INTERMEDIATE (Grades 3-5) ☐ MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6-8) ☐ HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9-12)	☐ DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY ☐ FILM PRODUCTION ☐ LITERATURE	☐ MUSIC COMPOSITION ☐ PHOTOGRAPHY ☐ VISUAL ARTS

ACCESSIBLE ARTS DIVISION PARTICIPATION (Check if relevant)
Students who identify as having a disability and may receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504 may also select to participate in the Accessible Arts Division to receive division-specific accommodations and non-artistic accommodations as outlined in the division guidelines. Participating students may use the "Additional Details" field to provide information about how their disability and/or support needs impacted their entry (10 to 100 words, optional). Participating students compete against other students in the division and are awarded as part of the division. See division guidelines for details.

☐ I will participate and compete in the Accessible Arts Division.

ARTWORK DETAILS (As relevant or required based arts category and/or division)

Medium and Materials (Visual Arts)	_____	**Dimensions** (Visual Arts/ Photog.)	_____
Word Count (Lit.)	_____	**Editing software, if used.** (All categories)	_____
Cite background music, if used. (Dance/Film) **List musician(s) or instrumentation** (Music)	_____		

TITLE (Required for all entries)

_____

ARTIST STATEMENT (Required for all entries) In 10 to 100 words, describe your work and how it relates to the theme.

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ADDITIONAL DETAILS If technology is used, describe the platform's use in the creation process, including any generative elements (required for all entries, 10 to 50 words). Students participating in the Accessible Arts Division may provide details about how their disability and/or support needs impacted their entry (Optional, 10 to 100 words).

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Create an Artist Statement

Understanding Reflections Artist Statement

While a title is general and means to peak a viewer's interest, but an artist statement should provide more complete context and descriptions for your inspiration behind the piece, creative process in crafting the piece and your interpretation of the Reflections theme.

Your artist statement should describe your artwork and prioritize details related to the Reflections theme or the student's interpretation. Consider the following:

- **Explain your artwork:** Describe how specific parts or elements relate to the Reflections theme or your interpretation.
- **Share your decisions:** Explain why you made certain choices to connect your piece to the theme.
- **Highlight key elements:** Talk about metaphors, sequences or patterns that are important to the theme.
- **Describe personal connections:** Share any personal experiences that inspired your interpretation of the theme.

Tips and Tricks to Create Your Own

If struggling to create your artist statement, consider these suggestions:

- **Think about this:** What questions might a viewer have about your artwork? How would you answer them?
- **Consider your goals:** What do you hope people feel or think when they see your art? What actions do you want them to take?
- **Reflect on influences:** Are there any cultural or traditional elements in your piece? How would your artwork be different without them?
- **Describe your process:** What steps did you take to create your artwork? Which parts were the most challenging or rewarding?
- **Imagine you're the viewer:** Pretend you're not the artist. How would you describe the piece? What do you like, dislike or find confusing?
- **Talk it out:** Describe your artwork and interpretation of the theme to a friend, teacher or family member. Record the conversation or take notes.
- **Detail your artwork:** Write a detailed description of your piece, including materials, subjects and your favorite parts.

Understanding the Reflections Review Criteria

In Reflections, the review process allows PTAs to score and award student entries for each level of the Reflections program. To structure and guide a fair review process, specific PTA Reflections review criteria are used to assess entries:

- **Interpretation of Theme** (40 pts.): How closely the piece relates to the theme, based on the artwork itself and the artist statement.
- **Creativity** (30 pts.): How creative and original the piece is in its conception of the theme and its presentation.
- **Technical Skill** (30 pts.): The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/techniques of the arts area.

Read This: Participation Reminder

Most PTAs use the **national Reflections scoring rubric**, but local or state PTAs may have additional or unique elements.

Contact the specific PTA you are submitting to with questions.

How to Use a Rubric to Make Your Art Shine

A rubric is like a treasure map—it shows you what reviewers are looking for and helps you make your artwork the best it can be! Here's how to use it to guide your creative journey—and a few things to watch out for.

Smart Rubric Tips ▼

Smart Rubric Tips for Reflections Artists

- **Look at the Rubric Together**: Go over the rubric with a family member, teacher or friend to make sure you understand the criteria.
- **Check Your Work**: Use the rubric to score your own art. Ask yourself: "Are there ways I can improve within each area?"
- **Focus on What Matters Most**: Some parts of the rubric might be worth more points—like Interpretation of Theme. Spend extra time making those parts really strong!
- **Ask for Help**: Show your art and the rubric to someone you trust. They might notice something you can improve.
- **Use the Rubric Words**: If the rubric says "shows strong creativity," think about how you can make your connection to the Reflections theme stand out even more.

Rubric Mistakes to Avoid ▼

Rubric Mistakes to Avoid for Smart Reflections Artists

- **Forgetting the Rubric**: Don't just guess what the reviewers want. When in doubt, use the rubric to guide you.
- **Messy Work**: Even the best ideas can lose points if the artwork looks rushed or sloppy. Take your time! If something is especially unique about your piece, explain why you made that choice in your artist statement.
- **Not Understanding the Rules**: If you're not sure what something means, ask! It's okay to get help and its better to understand now, than miss out later. Double-check requirements and deadlines with your PTA.
- **Trying to Do Too Much**: Don't try to fit everything in. Keep your idea clear, focused and relevant to the Reflections theme.
- **Skipping the Planning Step**: Start with a sketch or a plan to guide your piece. It helps your final creation look more polished.

Creating Your Title and Artist Statement

In Reflections, judges focus on how well you use your artistic vision and process to portray the theme and your unique interpretation, so the most successful entries have:

- A **creative title that highlights** your artwork and theme.
- An **artist statement that explains** your artwork, your take on the theme, your creative process and key elements of your piece.

While creativity is important with titles and artist statements, there are certain requirements for Reflections entries to keep in mind when creating your title and artist statement:

- Each entry **must have a unique title and artist statement**. Don't reuse either for multiple entries.
- Statements should be **between 10 and 100 words**.
- Titles can be inspired by the theme, but **should not copy the theme**.
- Titles and statements must **reflect the student's age and/or support needs**. Any guidance provided by an adult (e.g., teacher, parent, guardian) should be minimal and non-artistic.

2025-2026 Reflections Theme: *I Belong!*



Learn more about the theme and find art-making activities to inspire your Reflections entry.

Tips and Tricks to Express Your Creative Vision

Your title and artist statement help judges and viewers understand your artwork and its connection to the theme. They act as your voice, explaining your inspiration and creative expression. **Learn more about and find ideas** to help create your own high-quality titles and artist statements in the dropdown menus.

Create a Title

Understanding Reflections Titles

Titles help viewers understand what you're trying to say with your artwork and help guide them to how you want them to see your artwork. A good title tells the story of your piece and starts to explain your interpretation of the theme.

Titles can take many different forms and share information in unique ways, including:

- **Specific:** Include names, locations, seasons, etc.
- **Playful:** Include a play on words, jokes, pun, rhythm, etc.
- **Literal:** Include a brief, but exact, description of the piece like color, materials, etc.

Tips and Tricks to Create Your Own

If struggling to create an artwork title, look at your art and consider the following:

- **Think about this:** How can you describe your subject matter or theme in a different way?
- **Reflect on your feelings:** What emotions or thoughts did you have while creating or looking at your piece?
- **Consider the viewer's perspective:** What might viewers think or feel when they see your artwork?
- **Recall conversations:** What words or phrases came up when you discussed your piece with a friend, teacher or family member?
- **Tap into memories:** What memories describe your piece or are associated with the theme or your artwork?

Reflections Review Rubric

Criteria / Level	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Accomplished	Advanced
Interpretation	**1-8 pts.**	**9-16 pts.**	**17-24 pts.**	**25-32 pts.**	**33-40 pts.**
How closely the piece relates to the theme, based on the work itself and the artist statement.	The interpretation lacks clarity and does not communicate the student's concept.	The interpretation lacks clarity and does not fully communicate the student's concept based on the theme.	The interpretation communicates the student's concept based on the theme.	The interpretation clearly communicates the student's concept based on the theme but lacks meaning, purpose and integrity.	The interpretation clearly communicates the student's whole concept based on the theme with meaning, purpose and integrity.
Creativity	**1-6 pts.**	**7-12 pts.**	**13-18 pts.**	**19-24 pts.**	**25-30 pts.**
How creative and original the piece is in its conception of the theme and its presentation.	Work is somewhat original and reflects the theme in very conventional ways.	Work is somewhat original and reflects the theme in conventional ways.	Work is original and reflects the theme in conventional ways.	Work is primarily original and reflects the theme in imaginative ways.	Work is highly original and reflects the theme in un-conventional, interesting, imaginative and new ways.
Technique	**1-6 pts.**	**7-12 pts.**	**13-18 pts.**	**19-24 pts.**	**25-30 pts.**
The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/ techniques of the arts area.	Work demonstrates very limited skill of the arts area.	Work demonstrates limited skill of the arts area.	Work demonstrates capable skill of the arts area.	Work demonstrates expertise of skill of the arts area.	Work demonstrates mastery of skill and knowledge of the arts area.