

# Parent, Teacher, Student Packet

## Reflections Program 2008-2009



**“Wow!”**

VIRGINIA  
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## Table of Contents

3	What is the Reflections Program?
4-5	FAQs Participation, Copyrighted material, Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, Visual Arts, Dance Choreography, Film Production entries rules, Protection of Student Information, Finding judges
6	Parent, Teacher Involvement
7	National PTA Theme Search for 2010-2011
8	General Student Participation Rules
9	Dance Choreography Rules
10	Film Production Rules
11	Literature Rules
12	Musical Composition Rules
13	Photography Rules
14	Visual Arts Rules
15	Student Entry Form
16	Helpful Hints for Completing the Student Entry Form

## What is the Reflections Program?

The Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program. Students in preschool through grade 12 participate in the arts areas of literature, dance choreography, film/video production, musical composition, photography, and visual arts. Age divisions are preschool through grade 2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8, and grades 9-12.

The Reflections Program provides a venue for students to create and be recognized for original works of art based on a pre-selected theme, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education.

Parents, teachers, and community members all play a critical role in fostering a positive learning environment for children. Supporting the Reflections Program is one way adults can help maintain that environment.

The Reflections Program has encouraged millions of students across the nation and in American schools overseas to explore their artistic talents. The National PTA created this program in 1969 at the request of then Colorado PTA President Mary Lou Anderson. The program's longevity and participation statistics attest to its strength. This coming year will be the fortieth anniversary for the Reflections Program. Let the excitement and enthusiasm that the program generates for children, parents, schools, and communities truly be unmatched.

The **goal of the Reflections Program is participation.** Although the program follows a judging format, winning should not be the emphasis. Arts in education/Reflection Chairmen should remember that all children are gifted and talented; The Reflections Program can give children who have never tried creating a work of art a chance to experiment and feel good about their work.

Ensuring that all participants are recognized, including those with artwork advancing to another level, can encourage future participation. Students see their peers enjoying the program and look forward to participating themselves.

Students must participate through an active PTA unit in good standing which means that dues are paid and bylaws are current. If in doubt check with the state Membership or Bylaws chairmen or your District Director. Entries received at the State Level are not eligible for State Reflections Awards if the submitting local unit is not in good standing. Virginia PTA Outstanding Interpretation entries advance to the National level.

For more information on the Reflections Program contact your school's Reflections Chairman or the Virginia Arts in Education Chairman at [patricia.franck2@verizon.net](mailto:patricia.franck2@verizon.net).

**Please refer to Reflections as a "self discovery learning program for children". Recognize and award them for their achievement in their art mediums.**

# 2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program

Theme: "Wow!"

## LOCAL, COUNCIL, AND DISTRICT PTA INFORMATION:

### FAQs AND THE JUDGING PROCESS

The National PTA office receives many inquiries about eligibility, specific arts areas, student information protection, and the judging process. The following information addresses these concerns.

#### Participation

**Who is eligible to participate?** Participation in the Reflections Program is open to any student through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing. It is the responsibility of the local unit to determine each student's eligibility in the Reflections Program.

**May students participate through a local PTA not affiliated with their school?** State PTAs may adopt policies regarding this situation. The national PTA organization requires only that national entries come from local PTAs in good standing.

**May students no longer attending a PTA school still enter the Reflections Program through their former school?** State PTAs establish their own policies regarding this situation. Some states restrict this practice, so it is important to contact the state PTA about its participation policy. VA PTA will not allow entries from non PTA schools.

**May home-schooled students participate in the Reflections Program?** State PTAs may adopt policies regarding this situation. The national PTA organization requires only that national entries come from local PTAs in good standing.

**Under what division should developmentally challenged students participate?** 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. The national PTA organization 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. However, guidelines for state and local Reflections Programs vary. Check with your state PTA for its guidelines.

**May developmentally or physically challenged students receive help from a parent or teacher?** Rules or policies regarding

developmentally or physically challenged students are left up to the discretion of each state PTA and may be handled on a case-by-case basis.

#### 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

**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 students 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 students submit computer-manipulated photos?** Images may be manipulated conventionally or digitally.

#### Visual arts

**May students submit computer-generated visual artworks?** The national PTA organization accepts visual arts pieces generated on a computer.

#### Dance choreography

**Does the choreographer (the student submitting the entry) have to be one of the performers?** The choreography must be the work of one student and must demonstrate both creativity and interpretation of the theme. There may be up to three dancers. The choreographer need not be one of the dancers.

#### Film production

**Does the student submitting the entry have to appear in the film?** The student must be the director, screenwriter, and cameraperson. He or she does not have to appear in the film.

## Protection of student information

**How does a PTA protect student information on artwork?** When artwork is on display, label the back of the piece only with the student's name, school, and town. Do not attach the Student 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 Student Entry Forms to artwork for returning to the artist or sending on to the next judging level.

## Judging Process

### Finding Judges

You may already have a judging system in place that works well for your program. However, if you are having difficulty recruiting qualified judges, here are some ideas of others to invite to participate:

- Art, literature, dance, film, journalism, and music educators or college/university professors
- Teachers from other schools participating in the Reflections Program
- Art museum directors, docents, curators, or historians
- Professional photographers and local artisans
- Local symphony orchestra or choral directors, musicians, conductors, or composers
- Local dance conservatories, dance studios, ballets, or theaters
- Local multimedia/video production companies
- Newspaper journalists, editors, or photographers
- Local television stations
- Arts advocacy organization presidents or directors

By inviting professionals in the arts or influential community leaders to participate in Reflections Program judging increases the exposure of the PTA, its work, and the wonderful benefits students derive from participating in the arts.

If a judge knows a student participant, the judge should remove himself or herself from the judging process for that particular arts area to prevent a conflict of interest. Teachers from the host school serving as judges would also have a conflict of interest, so it is better to invite teachers from another school that offers the Reflections Program.

Remember to recognize judges in promotions and thank them for their participation. Some PTAs provide each judge with a small gift or certificate of appreciation.

## Judging at the national level

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. A local, council, or district PTA might want to use a similar process.

- **Literature, musical composition, dance choreography, and film/video production:** The four judges in the arts area each receive entries from one grade division to review. Each judge selects 10 entries from his or her assigned grade division for presentation to the full panel. After the presentation, the judges assign awards of excellence and awards of merit.
- **Photography and visual arts:** Entries are judged from electronic files of the original artwork. The judges view all of the artwork for one grade division and select the pieces that they would like to see in a second round of viewing. In the second round, they pick the top eight and assign awards of excellence and awards of merit. They then repeat the process for the other grade divisions. A state-level judging system could have a similar design.
- **Tiebreakers:** If two entries are judged as equal in all areas, the entry that best interprets the theme receives more recognition.
- **Outstanding Interpretation selection:** All Award of Excellence recipients in each arts area are reviewed together. The one piece that best interprets the theme is selected for the Outstanding Interpretation Award.

### Blind judging

It is important to conduct *blind judging*—where judges do not see artists' names—in situations or settings where judges may know the student or the work.

- **Literature:** Distribute photocopies of *only* the front side of each literature entry. However, send the *original* manuscript of each winning entry on to the next level of judging.
- **Musical composition, dance choreography, and film production:** For each arts area, prepare a master CD, or DVD of all of the entries, as well as a list of the entries, using a code for the students' names. Include the grade division, title of work, playing time, and artist statement (if submitted) in the list of the entries.
- **Photography and visual arts:** Cover the personal information attached to the artwork.

Beyond the local PTA level, blind judging will need to occur only if there is a chance that the judges will recognize a student's entry. In most situations, judges at the council, district, and state PTA levels should be able to use the original materials for literature, musical composition, dance choreography, and film production.

## PARENT, TEACHER INVOLVEMENT

Parents, teachers, and community members all play a critical role in fostering a positive learning environment for children. Supporting the Reflections Program is one way adults can help maintain that environment. The Virginia PTA wants everyone to promote the Reflections Program as much as possible. This page shows how both teachers and parents and the PTA can use this program for maximum benefit to students.

1. Parents and teachers may distribute all of the rules and forms associated with Reflections.
2. They may elect to supply the child with the materials needed to complete an entry. They may assist by encouraging, setting up recording venues, preparing Student Entry Forms and preparing works for presentation.
3. They may collect the entries.
4. They may ANNOUNCE and discuss the theme; to encourage the child's own, unique interpretation of the theme. This 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year 2008-2009 theme is "**Wow!**"
5. If a teacher elects to use the Reflections Program and/or it's theme in their classroom as part of a creative writing lesson, they may do so after the student has placed his/her reflections entry in the PTA hands.
6. Both teachers and parents can and should copy the **original** work right before it is turned into the Reflections Program as an entry. This copy can then be graded, edited or handled by any means desired by the teacher and kept as a reminder to the child by the parents.
7. Parents or teachers who need to make translations or readable copies of student entries must not change any spellings or grammar used by the student. This is to protect the student's integrity in participation as outlined in the National PTA rules.
8. A student entry must be a student's own original work. The PTA Reflections Program is designed to show "...an individual's creativity..." All entries belong to the students who made them.
9. Parents, teachers, and mentors should be prepared to provide the child with time, space and some materials as expressed or shown by the child's unique interpretation and leadership. Ex. a camera or film, recording equipment and place, drawing paper, a location, etc.
10. Reflections should not be focused as an arts "competition". Rather, it should be a project for children to learn to express themselves, freely, individually and confidently, through various arts disciplines. Whether the child is "exploring" the art form or is an accomplished writer/musician/painter/etc., all entries are judged most critically in the interpretation of the theme. **This 40<sup>th</sup> year's anniversary theme is "Wow!"**
11. Creating art is a valuable learning process. Artistic exploration and expression enhance and develop intellectual, social, and technical skills. When children express themselves through words, pictures, music, photography, and other art forms, they grow intellectually. They learn to analyze their thoughts, feelings, and ideas; and learn to look at things, people, and experiences in a fresh and exciting way. Let's all work together to achieve this maximum benefit to the students.



# National PTA Reflections Program

## Theme Search for 2010–2011

National PTA is looking for a theme for its Reflections Program for 2010–2011. The student who submits the winning entry will receive \$100, and his or her theme will be presented at the 2009 National PTA Convention (June 27-29 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida). Use this form to submit theme ideas. Only signed original forms will be considered. Please submit entries to your local PTA. Local PTAs will submit up to 3 suggested applications to the Virginia PTA office

State deadline for theme submissions: Local units send up to 3 student application forms to the VA PTA state office by October 31, 2008.

Local PTA/PTSA \_\_\_\_\_

PTA/PTSA president \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Eight-digit National PTA ID 00 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ School name \_\_\_\_\_

**Theme idea** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/guardian's signature** \_\_\_\_\_

\*NOTE: Please put only one theme suggestion per application.

**LOCAL UNIT DEADLINE DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

# 2008–2009 National PTA Reflections Program

## GENERAL STUDENT PARTICIPATION RULES

Theme: “Wow!”

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### 1. Theme

The theme for the 2008–2009 program is “Wow!” **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 production

*National PTA does not limit the number of entries a student may submit.*

### 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. However, guidelines for state and local Reflections Programs vary. 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.

# 2007–2008 PTA Reflections Program

## DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY RULES

### Theme: Wow!

**Students must adhere to the general rules as well as the following Dance Choreography Rules.**

#### Description

Dance choreography entries must be original choreographed dance composition works recorded on a CD or DVD. The choreography must be the work of one student and must demonstrate creativity and interpretation of the theme.

There may be up to three dancers performing the choreography. The choreographer may be the performer or one of the performers, but does not have to be. Costumes are not necessary. If costumes are used, however, the choreographer must also create the costumes.

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 other than music is prohibited.**

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, 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 **Student 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 Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).

#### Return of Artwork

The national PTA office does not return dance entries.

#### Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of dance styles, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

#### Music (Credit background music-Required)

The title, composer, and performer of any background music must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form.

#### Presentation

- **Entries may not exceed five minutes.**
- All grade divisions must submit a DVD or CD of a performance of the choreography.
- The choreographer is not required to be the (or one of the) performer(s).
- The performance should directly relate to the theme.
- Submissions should be in one of the following file formats:
  - **.MPG / .MPEG**
  - **.MOV / .QT** (Quicktime Video)
  - **.WMV** (Windows Media Video)
- Entries should be submitted on CD or DVD. The entry should be saved as a file on the CD/DVD, not as a CD/DVD movie.
- Submit the DVD or CD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the DVD/CD and the container with the student's name, grade division, state, and year.
- Pack the DVD/CD in a large envelope.
- Secure the Student Entry Form to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.

#### Recommendations for quality recordings

- Turn on for 2 seconds, and then begin recording the performance.
- Use a tripod to hold the camera still.
- Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.). Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording.

#### Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, state who performed your choreography and credit the background music.

#### Required Artist Statement

Students in all age groups must write an Artist Statement. On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme.

**State Specific Rules: RECORD ON CD OR DVD. 5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT! Submit an original and a copy of a CD or DVD recording to the next highest level. All entries must be submitted with the original completed 2008-2009 Student Entry Form as well as a copy of that form. Please follow Quality Recording Instructions, Presentation and Required Information above. Make a copy of each entry and Student Entry Form to retain before submitting to the next level for judging.**

# 2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program

## FILM PRODUCTION RULES

### Theme: Wow!

**Students must adhere to the general rules as well as the following Film Production Rules.**

#### Description

Film production entries must be original works of fiction or nonfiction relating to the current Reflections Program theme, “Wow!”. The entries may be with or without sound.

The student submitting the entry must be the director, screenwriter, and cameraperson. If using a computer, the student must do all of the work. If the student chooses to appear in the production, a camera on a tripod may be used. Student must direct the ‘on’ and ‘off’ of the camera. All storyboarding, editing, etc. must be done by the student.

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.

#### Categories

- **Animation:** Animation may be drawn; created from a collection of objects, clay, torn paper, etc.; or computer-generated.
- **Narrative:** A story told through the images created on CD, DVD, or computer. (This is not the same as a storyteller narrating an original story.)
- **Documentary:** Nonfiction documentation using narration, facts, and images.
- **Experimental:** Video that explores movement, light, and montage.
- **Media presentations using computers:** Computer-generated media presentations must be completely original, and the student must do all the work. Cutting and pasting is not permitted. PowerPoint presentations will not be accepted. Students must adhere to copyright laws. Software should be used only to enhance and present the work of the student.

#### 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 other than music is prohibited.**

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person’s ideas, 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 **Student 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 should place the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works and write an **Artist Statement (see Required Information)**.

#### Return of Artwork

The national PTA office does not return film production entries.

#### Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of film styles, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

#### Music (Credit background music-Required)

The title, composer, and performer of any background music must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form.

#### Presentation

- **Entries may not exceed five minutes.**
- Submissions should be in one of the following file formats.
  1. **.MPG / .MPEG**
  2. **.MOV / .QT** (Quicktime Video)
  3. **.WMV** (Windows Media Video)
- Submissions should be submitted on CD or DVD. In case of DVD, the submission should be saved as a file on the disc, not as a DVD movie.
- The student submitting the entry is not required to appear in the video.
- Submit the CD or DVD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the CD/DVD and container with the student’s name, grade division, state, and year.
- Pack the CD or DVD in a large, catalog-style envelope, such as a 10” x 13” envelope.
- Secure the Student Entry Form to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.

#### Recommendations for quality recordings

- Use a tripod to hold the camera still.
- Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if shooting indoors.
- Think about sound. Use an extra microphone (boom mike) if needed. Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.).

#### Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, please answer the following:

- Who appears in your video?
- Was a computer used? If so, name the software and hardware.
- Was any background music used? If so, credit the music.

#### Required Artist Statement

On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work. Students of ALL age divisions must write an artist statement.

**State Specific Rules: RECOMMEND YOU USE DVD. 5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT! Submit an original and a copy of a DVD recording to the next highest level. All entries must be submitted with the original completed 2008-2009 Student Entry Form as well as a copy of that form. Please follow Quality Recording Instructions, Presentation section & Required Information above. Make a copy of each entry and Student Entry Form to retain before submitting to the next level for judging.**

# LITERATURE RULES

## 2008-2009 PTA Reflections Program

# LITERATURE RULES

### Theme: Wow!

Students must adhere to the general rules as well as the following Literature Rules.

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#### Description

Literature entries may be works of fiction or nonfiction. Prose, poetry, and drama are all accepted.

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. Literature entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material.**

**Plagiarism** is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, 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 **Student 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 should place the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form.

#### Return of Artwork

The national PTA office does not return literature entries.

#### Judging

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

#### Presentation

- Entries must not exceed 2,000 words.
- One original and one copy are to be submitted.
- Entries may be handwritten or typed, either on a typewriter or with a computer.

- Number all pages.
- Illustrated entries, including "books," with pictures drawn by the student are acceptable; however, only literary content is judged.
- Entries are to reflect grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Format:
  - Submit entries on any kind of paper, not to exceed 8½ inches by 11 inches in size.
  - Submit the original and one copy in a manila file folder with the Student Entry Form stapled to the back of the folder.
  - Do not mount entries.
  - Write the student's name on the back of each page in case pages become separated.**
- Collections of poems or short stories are not acceptable. A student may submit more than one work, but each one must be submitted separately.

#### Assistance

##### Dictation and typing

- Students may have their entries typed by another person as long as the original work or a copy of the original work is attached.
- Students who are physically challenged or students in kindergarten or 1st grade may dictate to another person who may type or write down the original work.
- **Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student's original work.**

##### Translation

- Students for whom English is not their first language may submit literature entries in their own languages. An interpretive translation must accompany the entry.
- **Translators should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student's original work.**

#### Required Artist Statement

**Students of all age groups must write this statement.** On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work, and how it relates to the theme.

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**State Specific Rules: Please submit an original and a copy of each entry. All entries must be accompanied by a complete 2008-2009 Student Entry Form, as well as a copy of that form. Make a copy of each entry and Student Entry Form to retain before submitting to the next level for judging. PLEASE follow all instructions in Presentation section above. Required Artist Statement is new this year for all students.**

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## 2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program

### MUSICAL COMPOSITION RULES

#### Theme: Wow!

**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, 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 **Student 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 should place the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information). Write Artist Statement.

#### Return of Artwork

The national PTA office 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 a CD recording of the composition.
  - Submit the CD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the CD and container with the student's name, grade division, state, and year.
  - Pack the CD with the score (if required) in a large envelope.
  - Secure the Student Entry Form in sheet protector 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.
- 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.
- Return to the beginning of the CD and record two seconds of silence; then start performing your composition. Finish with another two seconds of silence.

#### Required Information

**On the Student 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. Required of all grade divisions.

**State Specific Rules: Submit original and a copy of a CD recording & two copies of the score to the next highest level. Submit entries with original 2008-2009 Student Entry Form, as well as a copy of that form. Please follow Quality Recording Instructions. See Required information. All students in each age group are required to write an Artist Statement.**

# 2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program

## PHOTOGRAPHY RULES

Theme: Wow!

Students must adhere to the general rules as well as the following Photography Rules.

### Description

A photography entry must be an original black-and-white or color image, or a group of images, produced by a photographic process. The entry must relate to the theme.

The entry may incorporate such techniques as montage, multiple exposure, negative sandwiches, and photograms. Images may be manipulated conventionally or digitally. Images should demonstrate the student's proper use of photographic techniques such as depth of field and exposure. The images may be created using various lenses, filters, and light sources. Photographs with added graphics over the image, including lettering, are not acceptable.

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. This includes the use of copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material.**

**Plagiarism** is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, 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 **Student 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. Write Artist Statement.

Students should place the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).

### Return of Artwork

Please contact your state PTA for the artwork return policy. If your entry receives a national-level award, your original artwork will be used to prepare the Reflections Program online gallery. Following the completion of the website, the national PTA office will make every effort to return your artwork by early 2010.

### Judging

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

### Presentation

- A single print or collage may not exceed 11 inches by 14 inches, including a mat.
- Print the entries on photography paper or other two-dimensional material.
- Mount all prints on a cardboard mat, poster board, or some other sturdy material.
- Protecting the work with shrink-wrap or a transparent plastic cover is optional but highly recommended.
- Framed entries, original film (negatives or transparencies), and multidimensional pieces are not accepted.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a sheet protector and tape it (with masking tape) to the back of the photograph on top of the shrink-wrap.

### Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, give the dimensions of the piece and describe the process used in preparing the piece.

### Required Artist Statement

Students of all grade divisions are required to write this statement. On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme.

**State Specific Rules: PLEASE OBSERVE SIZE RESTRICTIONS. NO PHOTOGRAPHY ENTRY IS TO EXCEED 11"x14" INCLUDING MAT. See Required Information and Presentation above for instructions on attaching the Student Entry Form. All entries must have 2008-2009 Student Entry Form, as well as a copy of that form. Copy each photography entry plus Student Entry Form to retain before sending entry to the next level for judging.**

# 2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program

## VISUAL ARTS RULES

### Theme: Wow!

Students must adhere to the general rules as well as the following Visual Arts Rules.

#### Description

A visual arts entry must be an original print, drawing, painting, collage, photographic collage, metal etching or punch work, fiber work, or computer-generated artwork that relates to the theme.

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. This includes the use of copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material.**

**Plagiarism** is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, 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 **Student 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 should place the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (**see Required Information**). Write Artist Statement.

#### Return of Artwork

Please contact your state PTA for the artwork return policy. If your entry receives a national-level award, your original artwork will be used to prepare the Reflections Program online gallery. Following the completion of the website, the national PTA office will make every effort to return your artwork by early 2010.

#### Judging

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

#### Presentation

- All art must be flat and may not be more than 3/8 inch thick. This includes all two-dimensional materials and images, including small, flat items (such as string, fabric, and screening) that have maximum surface contact with the face of the image. Nothing three-dimensional (noodles, beans, beads, boxes, etc.) may extend off the surface of a work.
- No art may exceed 24 inches by 30 inches, including a mat.
- Entries may be submitted on paper, canvas board, cardboard, hot or cold pressboard, or canvas (not to exceed 3/8-inch thickness).
- Mount all paper or canvas entries on sturdy cardboard mats, but not in wooden, metal, plastic, or glass frames.
- Protecting the work with shrink-wrap or a transparent plastic cover is optional but highly recommended.
- Lamination is discouraged because it can permanently damage the surface of the artwork.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a sheet protector and tape it (with masking tape) to the back of the artwork on top of the shrink-wrap.

#### Works Not Accepted

- Sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, and other three-dimensional artwork
- Reproductions or enlargements of other artwork

#### Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, give the dimensions of the piece and describe the media used to create the piece.

#### Required Artist Statement

Students in all age groups must write an Artist Statement. On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme.

**State Specific Rules: ARTWORK MAY NOT EXCEED 24" X 30" INCLUDING MAT. See above Required Information and Presentation section for instructions on attaching entry form. All entries must be submitted with the original 2008-2009 Student Entry Form as well as a copy of that form. Make a copy of each entry and Student Entry Form to retain before submitting to the next level for judging. Write required Artist Statement.**

**2009-2009 PTA Reflections Program Student Entry Form**

Theme: **"Wow!"**

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 an extra sheet of paper.

	<b>Grade Division (check one)</b>	<b>Arts Area (check one)</b>
Grade _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Primary: Preschool-Grade 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Photography
	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate: Grades 3-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Musical Composition <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Arts
Age _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Middle/Junior: Grades 6-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Dance Choreography <input type="checkbox"/> Film Production
	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior: Grades 9-12	

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		
<b>Photography and Visual Arts:</b> Give the dimensions of the work in inches, including mat.	Length _____	Width _____
<b>Photography:</b> Describe the process used in preparing the piece _____		
<b>Visual Arts:</b> Describe the media (crayons, oil on canvas, etc) _____		
<b>Dance Choreography:</b> Who performed your choreography? _____		
<b>Film Production:</b> Respond to the following		
Who appears in your film? _____		
Was a computer used? If so, name the software and hardware _____		
<b>Dance Choreography and Film Production:</b> Credit the background music below		
_____		
<b>Musical Composition:</b> Respond to the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Traditional Instrumentation <input type="checkbox"/> 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? _____		

----- Fold Here -----

Student's first name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Address 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

PTA includes the national, state, district, council, and local PTA/PTSA organization or unit. I grant 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. PTA may continue to use my work as long as it has access to a copy or to a slide. 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)

<b>To be completed by local PTA/PTSA</b>		Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> PTA <input type="checkbox"/> PTSA	Local Eight-Digit PTA ID 00 - _____
Local chair full name _____		Official PTA/PTSA name _____	
PTA Address _____		City _____	State _____ ZIP _____
E-mail _____		Phone _____	
<b>Local PTA good standing status:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Membership dues date paid _____		<input type="checkbox"/> ByLaws approval date _____	
City/Council _____		District _____	



# REFLECTIONS 2008-2009

“Wow!”

## Helpful Hints for Students Completing the Student Entry Form

**Recommend** accessing the electronic PDF Student Entry Form on your local school web site (*Local Unit Reflections Representatives, please make sure your local student entry form already has the local PTA/PTSA information provided on the form for student downloads on your local web site.*)

- Type the information for all required fields; **highly recommend to not hand write** your data on this form. Remember to include grade and age section.
- Print out on white letter size paper **ONLY** (8 ½ inches X 11 inches). Make sure to set your printer to “Print to Printer Margins” or the bottom information may be cut off.
- Save the file for your copy before closing the file.
- Student and Guardian (if student is under 18) must sign the form with full signature in black ink.
- Place in sheet protector.
- Attach to work according to Presentation criteria of each art area.

1. Artists and photographers state dimensions of your entry. Include mat. **Required!**
2. Music Composition artists have 4 Required questions to answer.
3. Photography artists have ONE Required question to answer.
4. Visual Artists remember to include a description of your media used.
5. If music is used for Choreography or Film, document what it was on entry form. Include title, composer and performer.
6. If you cannot use computer, use black ball point pen. No pencil. Print legibly.
7. **Required** Artist statement is mandatory for all age divisions in all art areas.
8. Be sure you have followed all the rules stated, **especially length and size**, on the Visual Art, Photography, Literature, Music, Dance and Film area rules page.
9. Follow “Presentation” section for attaching the Student Entry Form to your work.

DO NOT WRITE ANY AWARDS OVER A FILLED OUT ENTRY FORM NOR CUT UP ANY STUDENT ENTRY FORM TO MAKE IT FIT! FOLD INSTEAD