



National PTA Reflections® Program Film Production Rules



All participants must also follow General Rules for Participation. All students must complete a student entry form for tracking purposes. Only students that advance to the next round will be asked to complete an online student entry form.

Description:

A film production entry must be an original work of fiction or nonfiction relating to the current Reflections Program theme. Entries may be with or without sound.

The student submitting the entry must be the director, screenwriter, and camera person. If using a computer, the student must do all the work. If the student chooses to appear in the production, a camera on a tripod may be used. 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.

Styles:

- **Animation:** Film 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 film or computer. (This is not the same as a storyteller narrating an original story.)
- **Documentary:** A nonfiction documentary using narration, facts, and images.
- **Experimental:** A video that explores movement, light, and montage.
- **Media presentations:** Computer-generated media presentations must be completely original, and the student must do all the work. Cutting and pasting from other sources is not permitted. In addition, the use of software that allows the user to build a virtual environment using prefabricated characters and elements is not permitted. Any software that is used to create an entry should be used only to enhance and present the work of the student, not to provide the primary design.
- **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. Due to the fact that most graphic elements of PowerPoint presentations are copyrighted clip art, use of this program is prohibited.

Presentation:

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- The film should directly relate to the theme.
- The student submitting the entry is not required to appear in the film.
- Submit a performance of the film on DVD packaged in a cardboard or plastic container.
- Label both the DVD and container with your name, grade division and the title of your film.
- Pack the DVD in a large envelope and use masking tape to secure your Student Entry Form to the outside of the envelope using a sheet protector, so that it is still accessible for photocopying. Do not tape over the opening of the sheet protector.

Use of Other Copyrighted Material:

Films 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.

Any background music used in a Film entry must be credited and documented either at the end of the film or in the artist statement, by indicating **the title of the music, its composer and its performer(s)**. If the entry's connection to the theme is expressed in the song choice, this should be explained in the artist statement.

Recommendations for Quality Recordings:

- Use a tripod to hold the camera still.
- Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if shooting indoors.
- 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.

Format:

The National PTA Reflections Program accepts most common file formats for entry, including any of the following:

- **Video:** AVI, MOV, MPG, MPEG, WMV, FLV
- **Maximum Upload File Size:** 1GB (one gigabyte)