



National PTA Reflections® Program Musical Composition 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 music 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 entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.

The use of composition software is permitted. The recording submitted may capture performers in real-time or may make use of a sound library generated performance of a score composed in its entirety by the student participant. The entry may not include commercially pre-programmed 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.

Music Composition entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material. 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.

Presentation:

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- The music composition should directly relate to the theme.
- The composer is not required to be the performer (or one of the) performer(s).
- A student's composed work may be performed by a group or may make use of a sound library generated performance of a score composed in its entirety by the student participant.
- Submit a CD of a performance of the composition packaged in a cardboard or plastic container.
- Label both the CD and container with your name, grade division and the title of your musical composition.
- Pack the CD 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.

Musical Notation:

Whether a student must submit musical notation is determined by his or her grade division:

- **Primary and Intermediate:** No notation is required. Iconic notation may be submitted. Iconic notation is "made-up" notation.
- **Middle and Senior:** Notation, either traditional or tablature, is required.
- **Score:** Pages should be numbered and no larger than 8.5 inches by 11 inches. Do not mount or bind the scores.

Recommendations for Quality Recordings:

- Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument or speakers.
- Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.).
- Record a short test and listen to it. If needed, improve recording quality by changing the record volume or microphone location.
- Make sure the music is audible on the recording.
- 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.

Format

- The recorded performance should be saved as a file on a CD, not as a CD/DVD movie. Accepted files include: MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC, FLAC.