

2005–2006 National PTA Reflections Program LITERATURE RULES

Theme: I Wonder Why...

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

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. Technique is less important than a well-developed concept.

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 or writings or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the student.

ENTRY FORM

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the **Official Entry Form**. Students who have not completely filled out the form will not be eligible for the program. In situations where a student cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign her or his child's name.

Students have the option of placing the title of their work on the **Official Entry Form** and answering a few questions about how they created the work as indicated by the arts area rules.

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 can 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 Official 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 entry.**

Translation

- Students for whom English is not their first language may submit a literature entry in their own language. 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 entry.**

OPTIONAL ARTIST STATEMENT

On the Official Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work.

2005–2006 National PTA Reflections Program

MUSICAL COMPOSITION RULES

Theme: I Wonder Why...

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.

Primary and intermediate grade divisions are restricted from the use of MIDI software. Senior and middle/junior grade divisions are strongly discouraged from the use of MIDI software in place of live performers. Use of notation software is permitted. The entry must be played in real time and prepared by hand or on computer paper appropriate for instrumentation and voicing. The entry may not include imported MIDI or other sourcefiles, or use algorithmic composition software.

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. Technique is less important than a well-developed concept.

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 or writings or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the student.

ENTRY FORM

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the **Official Entry Form**. Students who have not completely filled out the form will not be eligible for the program. In situations where a student cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign her or his child's name.

Students have the option of placing the title of their work on the **Official Entry Form** and answering a few questions about how they created the work as indicated by the arts area rules.

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 division.
 - Primary and Intermediate: No notation is required. Iconic notation may be submitted. Iconic notation is "made-up" notation.
 - Middle/Junior and Senior: Notation, including 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.

- The entry 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 age divisions must submit an audiocassette or CD recording of the composition.
 - Submit audiocassettes or CDs in a plastic or cardboard container, *both* identified with the student's name, grade division, state, and year.
 - Pack the audiocassette or CD with the score (if required) in a large envelope.
 - Secure the Official Entry Form to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.

Recommendations for quality recordings

1. Make the room you record in as quiet as possible. Close windows and turn off all noise-making devices in the room, such as air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc. Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument or speakers.
2. If recording on cassette, use *Dolby B Noise Reductions* to reduce background tape hiss.
3. Don't record at too loud a level (in the red zone on the meter) or too soft (meter barely moving).
4. 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.
5. If recording on cassette, rewind to beginning, record 15 seconds of silence, and then begin performing your composition. Finish with another 15 seconds of silence. CD submissions may reduce silence to two seconds.

REQUIRED

On the Official Entry Form, please answer the following:

- Who performed your composition?
- Was traditional instrumentation or a synthesizer used?
- 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?

OPTIONAL ARTIST STATEMENT

On the Official Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work.

2005–2006 National PTA Reflections Program PHOTOGRAPHY RULES

Theme: I Wonder Why...

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 can 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. They can be made 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 in visual arts or photography entries.**

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas or writings or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the student.

ENTRY FORM

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the **Official Entry Form**. Students who have not completely filled out the form will not be eligible for the program. In situations where a student cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign her or his child's name.

Students have the option of placing the title of their work on the **Official Entry Form** and answering a few questions about how they created the work as indicated by the arts area rules.

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 virtual exhibit. Following the completion of the website, National PTA will make every effort to return your artwork by early 2007. National PTA does not return musical composition and literature entries.

JUDGING

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

PRESENTATION

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

REQUIRED

On the Official Entry Form, describe the process used in preparing the piece.

OPTIONAL ARTIST STATEMENT

On the Official Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work.

2005–2006 National PTA Reflections Program VISUAL ARTS RULES

Theme: I Wonder Why...

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. Technique is less important than a well-developed concept.

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 in visual arts or photography entries.**

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas or writings or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the student.

ENTRY FORM

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RETURN OF ARTWORK

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JUDGING

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

PRESENTATION

- All art must be flat and not exceed more than a 3/8-inch thickness. 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 may extend off the surface of a work, including noodles, beans, beads, and boxes.
- 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.
- Shrink-wrapping is optional but highly recommended.
- Lamination is discouraged because it can permanently damage the surface of the artwork.
- Place the Official 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 and enlargements of other artwork

OPTIONAL ARTIST STATEMENT

On the Official Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work.