

FILM PRODUCTION is the process of making a film. The producer (student submitting the entry) is not required to appear in the film but if the student chooses a tripod may be used. All screenwriting, directing and editing must be done by the student producer. *PowerPoint presentations are not allowed.*



To Portray Your Original Film

- **Consider creating your film in using the following styles:**
 - **Animation:** Demonstrates motion by sequencing still objects or using computer-generated graphics.
 - **Narrative:** Tells a fictional story developed by the student.
 - **Documentary:** Presents facts and information.
 - **Experimental:** Explores movement, light and montage.
 - **Multimedia:** Uses a combination of different contents (text, audio, still images, animation, etc.).
- **To show a clear relation to the theme**, develop a work of fiction or nonfiction and make use of plot and characters, visuals (setting, costumes, animation), sound and background music, editing, etc.
- **Do NOT say or print artist full name on any part of the video!**

Video Quality Tips

- **Start and end with silence:** Leave two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your recording.
- **Do a test recording:** Record a short test and listen to it. Make sure the volume is not too high or too low.
- **Remove background noise:** Make the room quiet by turning off things like air conditioners, fans and phones.
- **Clear background music:** If using background music, make sure it sounds clear and doesn't drown out any dialogue.
- **Position the microphone close:** Place the microphone close to the sound source for clearer audio. Encourage actors to speak clearly and project their voices.
- **Use the back camera:** If recording with a smartphone, use the back camera for better quality.
- **Keep the camera still:** Use a tripod to avoid camera shakes. This helps keep all shots steady and allows for smooth movements.
- **Film horizontally:** Record in a horizontal position (side-to-side).

- **Check the lighting:** Be aware of the light you are using. Fluorescent lights can give a greenish or grey hue. High contrast lighting can create hard shadows, and overhead lights can be unflattering.
 - **Use natural light:** If you're in a room with overhead lights, try filming near an open window to add natural light.
 - **Add soft light:** Place a lamp or two nearby to soften the light and reduce shadows.

DIGITAL TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY

Digital technology and/or software may not provide the primary design and/or concept, but can be used to develop, enhance and/or present an entry. Entries may not be exclusively created with generative tools (e.g., AI) and/or composed exclusively of elements generated or provided by the technology platform.

Accepted:

- A sound library generated performance of student's original composed score.
- Use of audio editing platforms to mix, enhance or completely transform original audio.

Not Accepted:

- Algorithmic composition techniques in music submissions.
- Use of templates, formulas, etc. provided by a platform/technology.

Guidelines

- **Describe Use of Technology:** If digital technology is used, *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).
- **Verify Prohibited Technology:** Check if your state PTA prohibits the use of any digital platforms and/or methods (i.e., artificial intelligence).

Overall Entry Guidelines



These are basic guidelines that all Reflections entries must meet to be eligible on the national level. *Additional state and/or local program requirements may apply.*

Each entry must be new artwork inspired by the current year's theme are accepted.

- **Theme-Inspired:** Engage with the theme and create inspired artwork. This is critical to success in Reflections.
- **New Artwork:** Do not “recycle” artwork by submitting a piece created for other purposes (e.g., homework not related to Reflections; art used in another competition).

Each entry must be the original work of one student only.

- **Individual Originality:** Reflections is designed to encourage and recognize individual creativity, artistic assistance from friends, family and/or teachers is not allowed.
- **No Group Submissions:** Only one student will be awarded for each entry.
- **Artwork Details:** Titles or artist statements must be the student's own words and interpretations of the theme.
- **Creative Choices:** Decisions in the creative process must be made and/or directed by the student. If support is required, it should be limited and appropriate to the student's grade and needs.

Each entry must contain a title and an artist statement.

- **Word Count:** Artist's statement must include at least 10 words and not exceed 100 words.
- **Be Creative and Unique:** Each entry submitted in Reflections must have a unique title and artist statement specific to that submission. Learn more about crafting a title and artist statement in the section below.

Each entry using digital technology/software in creation process must consider the following:

- **Enhance:** Technology/software *may be used to* develop, enhance and/or present an entry.
- **Original Use:** Technology/software *may not be use to* provide the primary design and/or concept.
- **Use Description:** Entrants must use the “Additional Details” field on their entry form to briefly describe the tools and method used in the creation process, including any generative elements (10 to 50 words).