

WSPTA 2026 Reflections Artwork Review Guide

This guide will help you better understand the National PTA Reflections artwork review process and provide tips and suggestions to help your PTA conduct your Reflections review. At the end of this guide, you will find the [Reflections Artwork Scoring Rubric](#), as well as additional tools that you can use to support your review process.

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Reflections Review Guide

PTA Reflections Artwork Review

Reflections Review: Your goal is to conduct a fair, effective and efficient review using a group of arts professionals. The review process is critical to the success of your program and contains three main elements:

1. **Impartial Judging:** Use “blind” judging to reduce bias by omitting student names and personal information.
2. **Reflections Review Criteria:** Judges should score entries based on the following Reflections review criteria:
 - **Interpretation of Theme (40 pts.):** How closely the piece relates to the theme, based on the artwork itself and the artist statement.
 - **Creativity (30 pts.):** How creative and original the piece is in its conception of the theme and its presentation.
 - **Technical Skill (30 pts.):** The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/techniques of the arts area.
3. **Advancing Entries:** Part of the recognition available to students is the opportunity for their artwork to move forward for additional awards and prizes. Entries are only eligible for national awards if advanced by a state PTA.

Plan Your Review

Start Planning Your Review: You should begin planning your review as part of your overall program planning. Consider the following:

- **Review Timeline:** Set your submission deadline about one month before the deadline to advance entries to allow time for organizing and qualifying entries for your review.

- **Review Process:** Consider both online and in-person sessions for review:
 - **Online Review:** Organize entries in virtual folders, assign numbers and share digital copies and scorecards via cloud platforms, CDs or USB drives.
 - **In-Person Review:** Display works with titles and artist statements. Show media entries using a tablet or computer. Reviewers rotate and score each entry.
- **Review Materials:** Create a custom review packet that outlines necessary program details and guides reviewers through the process.
 - **Clear Directions:** Explain the review process (online login or in-person score drop-off).
 - **Judging Criteria:** Share Reflections criteria and emphasize the importance of the theme.
 - **Necessary Details:** Include information about categories and state PTA requirements.
 - **Theme Information:** Provide support materials or context shared with students.

Review Process

1. Prepare Artwork for Review: Allow time for organizing and qualifying entries for your review to make the overall review process smoother for your PTA and reviewers.

- **Organize Entries:** Group submissions by category and division for your review.
- **Qualify Entries:** Verify entries are eligible for review. Scan and flag submissions that do not follow program guidelines and requirements:
 - Incomplete entry forms (missing information or signatures)
 - Incomplete submissions (missing title, artist statement or additional details)
 - Entries that don't meet arts category requirements (missing notation, additional photos for 3D visual art)

2. Prepare Reviewers: Ensure reviewers are well-prepared and consistent in their evaluations by providing the same materials and support through the process. To conduct the review:

- **Student Artwork:** Remove or hide identifying information to protect the “blind” review.
- **Student Artwork Information:** Provide the title, artist statement and additional details with judges to help reviewers understand each student's inspiration for their work and how it relates to the theme.
- **Review Packet:** Ensure judges are easily able to find review criteria, directions for completing the review and contact information for questions.

3. Collect Scores: Have judges record their points and share back final scores to be verified.

- **Double check all entries** are scored on all criteria.
- **In case of ties,** the entry with the higher score for interpretation of theme wins.

4. Find Winners: Add together the points from each judge and rank the artwork accordingly to find your winners.

- **Assign student winners based on the award categories** your PTA set based on goals and state PTA requirements.
- **Remember if a question is raised about the status or score of an entry,** it is the responsibility of the PTA Reflections chairs to address it. Under no conditions may a reviewer be contacted and/or respond to disputes regarding the status and score of an entry.

Reflections Review Materials and Templates

In this section, you will find the review materials and templates for your PTA to use and customize to support your Reflections review process.

Reflections Reviewer Introduction

Welcome Reflections Judge! Thank you for supporting the artistic and cultural exploration of our students by serving as a volunteer reviewer for the PTA Reflections program! Your artistic expertise and enthusiasm contribute to the vibrancy and creativity of our school community. Before you begin, please familiarize yourself with the following criteria, theme and scoring materials.

Review Criteria: All PTA Reflections program entries are judged on three criteria.

- **Interpretation of Theme (40 pts.):** How closely the piece relates to the theme, based on the artwork itself and the artist statement.
- **Creativity (30 pts.):** How creative and original the piece is in its conception of the theme and its presentation.
- **Technical Skill (30 pts.):** The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/techniques of the arts area.

Notice how heavily “Interpretation of Theme” is weighted?

This is what makes the National PTA Reflections Arts program unique. A well-developed concept is more important than technique. If two entries are tied, the entry with the higher score for interpretation of theme receives more recognition. Use the provided rubric within this packet to keep your scores consistent.

Student Artwork and Information: The following entry information will be provided to you during your review.

- **Student Artwork:** Use your professional experience to consider each entry completely and, along with the additional information, score based on the review criteria.
- **Title of Artwork and Student’s Artist Statement:** These may provide insight on the student’s artistic style/genre and the materials the student used. Look for personal meaning and reflection on the theme to help you decide the student’s Interpretation of Theme score.
- **Division:** The student’s division may provide insight on student’s range of technical skill, ability and competencies displayed in their submission.
- **Additional Artwork Details:** If noted, artwork details will offer information related to cited material, submission size/length, etc.

Please record points for each entry on the provided score card. To flag questionable entries, contact **[Name]** at **[contact information]**.

After scoring your assigned entries, please turn in your scores **[how to submit scores]**.

WSPTA 2026 Reflections Review Rubric

Criteria / Level	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Accomplished	Advanced
Interpretation	1-8 pts.	9-16 pts.	17-24 pts.	25-32 pts.	33-40 pts.
How closely the piece relates to the theme, based on the work itself and the artist statement.	The student's written statement has very little focus on theme, and artwork shows no connection to theme.	The student's written statement has some focus on the theme, and artwork shows weak connection to theme.	The student's written statement has good focus on the theme, and artwork shows some connection to theme.	The student's written statement shows a full understanding of the theme, but artwork lacks strong connection to theme.	The student's written statement communicates a full understanding of the theme, and artwork shows a strong connection to theme.
Creativity	1-6 pts.	7-12 pts.	13-18 pts.	19-24 pts.	25-30 pts.
How creative and original the piece is in its conception of the theme and its presentation.	Work is somewhat original but does not reflect the theme.	Work is somewhat original and slightly reflects the theme.	Work is original and reflects the theme in typical ways.	Work is original and reflects the theme in imaginative ways.	Work is highly original and reflects the theme in interesting, imaginative and new ways.
Technique	1-6 pts.	7-12 pts.	13-18 pts.	19-24 pts.	25-30 pts.
The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/ techniques of the arts area.	Work demonstrates very limited skill of the arts area.	Work demonstrates limited skill of the arts area.	Work demonstrates capable skill of the arts area.	Work demonstrates expertise of skill of the arts area.	Work demonstrates mastery of skill and knowledge of the arts area.

Reflections Review Template Score Card

Entry #	Interpretation (40 pts)	Creativity (30 pts)	Technique (30 pts)	Total Score	Notes
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
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Reflections Reviewer Outreach Template

SUBJECT: Inspire Creativity: Become a Reflections Program Judge

Greetings from [PTA Name]'s Reflections student art program!

My name is [Name and Title], and I'm reaching out with an exciting opportunity for you to serve as a volunteer judge for the [Year] Reflections program, themed "[Reflections Theme]."

Every year, thousands of students in preK through grade 12 participate in the National PTA's [Reflections](#) art program, creating original artwork based on a theme. These works are submitted for local, state and national awards, including scholarships. Our PTA is currently seeking creative professionals to volunteer as judges in the following arts categories: [Relevant arts categories hosted by state PTA—Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts]. You can choose the category and grade division that best matches your experience and interests.

As a volunteer judge, you will review approximately [#of entries] student entries in your selected category between [review timeline]. The review process can be done [Description of review process—virtually and at their own pace/in person on XX date/time at XX location]. While the time commitment may vary, we estimate it will take about [time estimate] hours. Past judges have found this to be a rewarding experience. One reviewer for [arts category] shared, "[insert quote]."

We hope you will consider volunteering your time to support these young artists' creative dreams. If you're interested in serving as a judge for this year's Reflections program, please let [relevant contact] know by [how to share interest] no later than [deadline]. If you know others who might be interested, please share this opportunity with them or provide their contact information.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me [contact information]. Thank you for considering this opportunity to support our young artists!

Best regards,

[Name and Title]