



State PTA Leader's Guide

Judging Rules

All PTA Reflections program entries should be judged on **interpretation of the theme (20 pts.)**, **creativity (10 pts.)** and **technical skill (10 pts.)**. Notice how interpretation of the theme is weighted? This is what makes the Reflections program unique. A well-developed concept is more important than technique. Entries should be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

To facilitate the judging process, judges should receive the title and artist statement for each entry and the rules specific to their arts category. It is important to conduct *blind judging*—where judges do not see the artists' names—in situations where judges may know a student. Here are some tips for facilitating judging:

- **Dance, Film, Literature and Music:** Send digital copies of artwork to judges. Compile digital copies of artwork on a CD/USB drive or on an online file sharing site for judges to review. Provide judges with a list of artwork titles and artist statements.
- **Photography and Visual Arts:** Host a judging event. Display artwork on tables around the room. Tri-fold the student entry form to hide personal information and place the artist statement in front of artwork. Have judges rotate around the room to score each entry.

The following judging criteria is to be used by judges when reviewing entries. Notice that interpretation of the theme is weighed more heavily than the other considerations.

- **Interpretation of Theme (20 pts.)** How closely the piece relates to the theme, based on the artwork itself and the artist statement.
- **Creativity (10 pts.)** How creative and original the piece is in its conception of the theme and its presentation.
- **Technical Skill (10 pts.)** The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/techniques of the arts area.

With these criteria, each entry may receive a total of no more than 40 points from each judge. Have judges record their points for each entry on a score card. Add together the points from each judge and rank the artwork accordingly. If two entries are tied, the entry with the higher score for interpretation of theme receives more recognition.