Reflections Arts Program 2026

The National PTA Reflections Arts Program is a nationwide arts competition that invites students to submit theme-based original works of art to compete and receive recognition at local, state, and national levels. This is an individual competition, no groups allowed.

Enter the Reflections Art Competition in 5 easy steps:

1. Consider the theme
2. Choose a category
3. Create
4. Plan your submission
5. Celebrate!

The deadline for submissions is **November 12, 2026**

Ready to participate? See below for all the information you'll need for each step of the way:

1. **Consider this year's theme**: **"What My Culture Means to Me"**
    a. **Defining Culture:** Culture can be family traditions, food, language, music, celebrations, community, stories, values, places, or even a combination of cultures.
    b. **The Value of your Culture:** Is there a saying or family story that connects you to your culture? A song, dance, color, or artwork signifying your culture?
    c. **Emotional Connection:** Think about how your culture helped shape who you are. What part of your culture makes you feel most connected to your family, your history, who you are? Is there a place?
    d. **Role Models:** What is something you have learned from a parent or older family member that you want to carry forward? What is a meaningful family value or tradition instilled in you? Identify people (real or fictional) who exemplify the spirit of pride in their culture. What traits do they have?
    e. **Culture in Different Contexts:** How does your culture show up in different parts of your life- at home, school, with friends or teams, in your community? Have you ever felt embarrassed of your culture? Why? Did you overcome it?
    f. **Experiences**: What do you experience in your culture and how does it make you feel? Have you ever overcome feeling as if you don't belong? Who struggles to belong in their culture?
    -Be genuine! There are no wrong answers!
2. **Choose your category**: Choose which submission category will best allow you to express your interpretation of this year's theme. The categories are:
    1. Literature
    2. Dance Choreography
    3. Film Production
    4. Musical Composition
    5. Photography
    6. Visual Arts

a. Review the submission guidelines for each potential category. These guidelines will give you specifics about requirements for your entry (ex: types of writing accepted, length of film allowed, using notation, how to submit digitally, etc).
b. You may enter multiple categories but each submission must be different.
c. Guidelines can be found here: https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections/craft-an-entry#guidelines
d. Choose your category!

3. **Get CREATING!** Work on your submission.
-Some categories may benefit from drafts or practice.
4. **Plan your submission**
   a. Review the judging criteria for submissions. Entries will be judged on: ***Interpretation of theme (40%) *creativity(30%) *technical skill(30%)**
   b. Double check your category guidelines for submission requirements.
   c. If you need help (with filming, revising, borrowing materials, etc), reach out to schedule a time for assistance.
   d. Plan WHEN you will work on your submission. Allow time for all stages of work (ex: editing and revising writing, practicing choreography routine before filming, editing film, printing photographs, allowing paint to dry, etc)
   e. **Before submitting**, do the following:
      i. Complete a student entry form. Forms can be found at:
         1. The media center, front desk, ELA teachers, art teacher
         2. By emailing Gen Brown genbrown121@gmail.com
         3. Or here: Reflections Student Entry Form 2026
      ii. Complete a brief **artist statement** (10-100 words) on the entry form.
      iii. Ensure that both student and parent have **signed** the completed student entry form.
      iv. Email electronic submissions to genbrown121@gmail.com. Turn in physical submissions to the box marked **"Reflections"** in the front office.
      v. Be sure to include a completed student entry form with submissions. The Artist Statement and a Title of for work is **required.**
      vi. **The deadline for submissions is November 12, 2026.**
5. **Celebrate! You're done!** Thank you for sharing your art with our school! Be on the lookout for a token of our appreciation for your participation.
   a. After all submissions have been judged, the top entry per category will move on to the State competition, then possibly, the National contest!
   b. We would love to celebrate and share your art with the school community. If you would not like your art displayed or shared, please email Gen Brown at genbrown121@gmail.com to express your preference.

Questions? Please email Reflections Chair, Gen Brown, at genbrown121@gmail.com

NATIONAL PTA® REFLECTIONS®

2026-2027
CALL FOR ENTRIES!

What My CULTURE Means to Me

Explore the arts and express yourself!



Learn more and get involved! PTA.org/Reflections

*ALL participants will receive a treat and a small token of appreciation for sharing your art!

WILSON CENTER | CAPE FEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*ALL 1st place winners will receive 2 tickets to a show, courtesy of the Wilson Center!