

## Reflections

Linda Rubenstein The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. The Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education. Participation and appreciation for the arts is the Reflection Program's goal. Although the Reflection Program follows a "contest" format, winning should not be the emphasis.

Students may submit an entry in any of the six arts areas listed below. Only original works of art are accepted. The six art areas are:

- Literature
- Musical Composition
- Photography
- Visual Arts
- Dance Choreography
- Film/Video Production

Participation in the Reflections Program is organized by grade and student work is critiqued against others in the same grade level. This allows recognition and judging of artwork by appropriate developmental age and skill levels.

The Reflections Program is structured for PTAs to recognize students at the local unit, council, PTA district, state and national levels. Entries are first judged at the local level, where selected works are chosen to represent the PTA at each subsequent level. Once entries reach the level of the Maryland State PTA, entries may be selected for submission to the National PTA. Award of Excellence and Awards of Merit are recognized at the annual National PTA convention and are displayed as part of the program's traveling exhibit.

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