PTA REFLECTIONS

National PTA Reflections Program Film Production

Students must adhere to the General Student Participation Rules as well as the following Film Production Rules.

Description

A film production entry must be an original work of fiction or nonfiction relating to the current Reflections Program theme. Entries may be with or without sound.

The student submitting the entry must be the director, screenwriter, and camera person. If using a computer, the student must do all the work. If the student chooses to appear in the production, a camera on a tripod may be used. All storyboarding, editing, etc. must be done by the student.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

Styles

- **Animation:** Animation may be drawn, created from a collection of objects, clay, torn paper, etc., or computer-generated.
- **Narrative:** A story told through the images created on film or computer. (This is not the same as a storyteller narrating an original story.)
- **Documentary:** A nonfiction documentary using narration, facts, and images.
- **Experimental:** A video that explores movement, light, and montage.
- **Media presentation:** Computer-generated media presentations must be completely original, and the student must do all the work. Cutting and pasting from other sources is not permitted. In addition, the use of software that allows the user to build a virtual environment using prefabricated characters and elements is not permitted. Any software that is used to create an entry should be used only to enhance and present the work of the student, not to provide the primary design.
- **PowerPoint presentations will not be accepted.** Students must adhere to copyright laws. Software should be used only to enhance and present the work of the student. Due to the fact that most graphic elements of PowerPoint presentations are copyrighted clip art, use of this program is prohibited.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- The film should directly relate to the theme.
- Submit a DVD of a performance of the film.
- The student submitting the entry is not required to appear in the film.

Use of Copyrighted Material

Films may include public places, well-known products, trademarks, or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. The resulting work cannot try to establish an association between the student and the trademark/business/material, or influence the purchase/non-purchase of the trademarked good.

Recommendations for Quality Recordings

- Use a tripod to hold the camera still.
- Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if shooting indoors.
- Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.)
- Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording.

Format

- Save the entry as an .flv file.

- The recorded performance should be saved as a file on the DVD, not as a DVD movie.
- Name the file in **lower case** letters ***exactly*** in this order:

state abbreviation.arts category.grade level.student last name.student first name.flv

Example: md.film.mid.smith.mary.flv
(Grade levels should be indicated only as pri, int, mid, sen)

- Submit the DVD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the DVD and the container **with the file name, as indicated above.**

Labeling Your Documents and Files

Submissions that win at local levels will be forwarded to the next level of adjudication. Final judging of winning entries occurs at the national level where all entries are received in an electronic format using the file names outlined below. It is therefore very important to follow these instructions exactly when labeling files and forms.

- Label the bottom of each page submitted in hard copy with the appropriate file name as indicated.
- Place all file names in the **bottom right corner of each page,** so that identifying information can be easily concealed if needed.
- Do not write or type anything on the back of any page of paper.

Student Entry Form

- Please complete all information on the Student Entry Form.
- Label the form in the **bottom right hand corner** as follows:

state abbreviation.arts category.grade level.student last name.student first name.pdf
For example: md.film.mid.entry.smith.mary.pdf

- Any **background music** used in a Film entry must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form, by indicating **the title of the music, its composer and its performer(s).** If the entry's connection to the theme is expressed in the song choice, this should be explained in the artist's statement.
- List the name of the individuals that appear in the film. Please ensure each individual completes a Consent Form.
- Was film editing software used? If so, name the software.
- The required **Title** and required **Artist Statement** should be included. If the required Artist statement is too long to fit on the form, please write "See Attachment" on the form. Then submit the Artist Statement in its entirety on a separate piece of paper. Label the artist statement as follows:

state abbreviation.arts category.grade level.statement.student last name.student first name.doc
Example for typed page: md.film.mid.statement.smith.mary.doc

Consent Form

Completed and signed Consent Forms must be included for all individuals whose recognizable images or voices appear in a Reflections entry. Individuals over the age of eighteen may sign their own Consent Form. A parent or legal guardian must sign for individuals under the age of eighteen.

- Label each Consent Form in the **bottom right hand corner** as follows:

State abbreviation.arts category.grade level.consent.student last name.student first name.pdf
Example: md.film.mid.consent.smith.mary.pdf

Packing

- Pack the DVD, Student Entry Form, Artist Statement, and Consent Form(s) in a large manila envelope that opens and closes with a clasp. **Do not glue the envelope shut,** as it needs to be able to be opened and closed through various stages of judging. The envelope should be at least 8.5 x 11 inches, as the forms inside should not be folded.

Label the outside of the clasp side of the envelope as follows:

State abbreviation.arts category.grade level.student last name.student first name

Example: md.film.mid.smith.mary