



National PTA® Reflections

Music Composition Rules



MUSIC COMPOSITION is the process of creating a new piece of music. The **composer** (student submitting entry) is a person who expresses their own thoughts and ideas through the use of sound. The student composer may submit an entry performed by an individual or group and/or make use of a sound library generated performance of a composed score. Student composers are not required to perform their composition. *Middle and high school grade divisions require music score/tablature/notation, either traditional or tablature.*

Reflect on the 2015-2016 Theme: *Let Your Imagination Fly*

Consider the following musical styles and instruments to portray your original composition: A cappella, blues, choral, country, electronic, hip hop, jazz, world music, musical, orchestral, pop, R&B, religious, rock, symphonic/concert band and traditional.

All instruments, sounds, styles and combinations are accepted. Software may be used to produce an audio recording that does not include commercially pre-programmed imported MIDI or other source files. Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted. An explanation of the origin of the music and/or the significance of the music style might be a useful addition to the artist statement when submitting a music composition that involves traditional, cultural or regional instruments. Whether an entry displays formal composition technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity.

Suggestions for Audio Quality:

- Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument(s) or speakers.
- Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.).
- Record a short test and listen to it. If needed, change the record volume or microphone location.
- Allow for two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your recording.

Notation & Score: (Middle School & High School Divisions Only)

- Music score/tablature/notation required for middle school and high school divisions. Accepted file types include PDF and DOC.
- Notation software may be used to create a score.
- Whether the score is handwritten or computer-generated, appropriate instrumentation and voicing are required for the performance.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified.

Submission Requirements:

- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- Video must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size.
- Accepted file formats include: AVI, MOV, MPG, MPEG, MP4, WMV, FLV and F4V.
- Cite background music (if any) on the student entry form – this information should be entered into the “IF NECESSARY” box at the top of the form.
- Place all items for each project in a separate sheet protector:
 - Disc with project - label disc with student name, project title and school.
 - Student Entry Form - signed, with artist statement - facing out the back of the sheet protector.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.