



# National PTA® Reflections

## Music Composition Rules



2016-2017 Theme: *What Is Your Story?*

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.*

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. Student entry forms can be found at: [www.wakepta.org/reflections](http://www.wakepta.org/reflections)

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.

**Originality:** Only new and original songs inspired by the theme may be submitted. Each entry must be the work of one student only. **Copyright:** Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified.

**Ideas 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 Required for Middle School & High School Divisions Only.**

- Music score/tablature/notation required for middle school and high school divisions. Accepted file type is PDF.
- 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.

### **\*\*\*\*\*Presentation/ Packaging/Submission Requirements:**

- Each entry must contain a title and all entries must include an artist statement. The artist statement communicates what inspired the work, how it relates to the theme, and the content of the work. The statement must include at least one sentence, but may not exceed 100 words.
- Audio must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 200 MB (200 megabyte) in file size. Videos are not accepted.
- **Accepted audio file formats include: MP3, MP4. MP4 must be Audio only, no video or .CPA (MAC file format).**
- Required-Save music file on disc/drive in following format: Music-Division-Last Name-First Name
- Scores: PDF files must not exceed 3 MB (3 megabytes) in file size.
- Score Name requirement Music-Division-Last Name-First Name.PDF
- Cite performer(s) and instrumentation and length of piece on student entry form.
- Label CD/flash drive with student name, title of artwork, art category and division.
- Submit CD/flash drive with student entry form in a clear sheet protector or large manila folder.

*All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.*