



National PTA® Reflections

Dance Choreography Rules



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DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY is the act of creating movement. The *choreographer* (student submitting entry) may be the performer or one of the performers, but the choreographer does not have to perform in the entry.

2024-2025 theme – Accepting Imperfection

Consider the following styles and ensembles to portray your original choreography: Ballet, contemporary, ethnic and folk, religious dance, dance ensembles (color guard/indoor guard), ice skating/dancing and gymnastics-floor routine, freestyle, hip hop, jazz, street dance, and tap. The dance can be performed by an individual or a group, although only one student may be the *choreographer* (student submitting entry).

Originality: Only new and original choreography inspired by the theme may be submitted. Each entry must be the work of one student only.

Consider use of background song(s), props and the location to show a clear relation of the dance choreography to the theme. An explanation of the origin of the dance and/or the significance of the choreography might be a useful addition to the artist statement when submitting a dance choreography entry that involves traditional, cultural or regional dances. Whether an entry displays formal dance 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.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. Use of background music must be cited on the student entry form (title, composer and performer).

Presentation: Video must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size.

Ideas for Audio/Visual Quality: 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.). Record a short test and watch it. If needed, change the record volume or microphone location. Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording. Allow for two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your recording.

Judging: Entries will be judged on mastery of the medium (worth 8 points), artistic merit (worth 12 points), and interpretation of the theme (worth 20 points). Mastery of the medium in the context of the national Reflections Program pertains to the level of skill the student demonstrates in the basic principles/ techniques of the arts area. However, a well-developed concept is more important than technique. Entries will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. Many times, the artist statement will make a huge difference during judging because this is where the artist can explain in their own words, their thoughts and feelings for their piece.

Packaging:

- Accepted video file formats include: AVI, MOV, MP4, WMV, FLV and F4V.
- If submitting a physical entry, label video file & CD/DVD/USB drive with your Arts Category, First & Last Name. Pack the Disk/USB drive in an envelope and use tape to secure your Student Entry Form to outside of the envelope using a sheet protector, so that it is still accessible for photocopying. Do not tape over the opening of the sheet protector.
- If submitting digitally, label video file with your Arts Category & First & Last Name.

Submission Requirements:

- The student or at least one person from their primary household must be a current member of the Local PTA/PTSA where the student is participating. Each Local PTA/PTSA may determine a date by which the member must join.
- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- Cite background music (if any) on the student entry form (title, composer and performer).

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.