



# National PTA® Reflections

## Music Composition Rules



Reflect on the 2014-2015 Theme: *The world would be a better place if...*

**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/tablatore/notation, either traditional or tablatore.*

**Consider the following musical styles and instruments to portray your original composition:** A Cappella, Blues, Choral, Country, Electronic, Hip hop, Jazz, Latin, 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.
- Make sure the music is audible on the recording.
- Allow for two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your recording.

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

- Music score/tablatore/notation required for middle school and high school divisions. Accepted file types include PDF, DOCX 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.
- Audio recording must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size.
- Accepted audio file formats include: MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC (M4A) and FLAC.
- Label CD/flash drive with student name, title of artwork, arts category and division.
- Submit entry inside a 9 x 12 clasp envelope.
- Staple the student entry form on the outside of the envelope.
- Include Consent Form if anyone outside of student entering piece is performing.

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