

**How do the National PTA judges pick the winners?**

Student entries submitted to the national level go through two rounds of review by esteemed arts professionals across the country. During the evaluation process, judges will consider the following criteria:

1. **Interpretation:** How closely the piece relates to the theme, based on the work itself and the artist statement.
2. **Creativity:** How creative and original the piece is in its conception of the theme and its presentation.
3. **Technique:** The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/techniques of the arts area.

Judges strongly consider the interpretation of the Reflections theme during the evaluation process. It is suggested that students give their submissions a title that stands out and describes how the piece relates to the student’s personal interpretation of the theme. The following guiding questions can be useful when developing a title and artist statement:

* How does your work relate to the theme? What do you think about when you read the theme?
* What is your personal connection to the theme? How do you feel thinking about this theme?
* What did you use to create your work (e.g., supplies, technology, instrumentation, props, etc.)?
  + What/who was your inspiration?