

Judging Tips

Establishing Judging Dates

Establish judging dates based on the date entries are due within your school, the deadline for submitting entries to the next level of judging, and the number of entries you expect to receive. If your unit participates in all six arts areas of the Reflections Program, expect to need at least two weeks for the judging process, and another two to three weeks to prepare artwork for the next level of judging

Recruiting Judges

All judges should have a working knowledge of their assigned arts area. Sources of judges might include:

- Art, literature, dance, film, journalism, and music educators or college/university professors
- Teachers from other schools participating in the Reflections Program
- Art museum directors, docents, curators, or historians
- Professional photographers and local artists
- Local symphony orchestra or choral directors, musicians, conductors, or composers
- Local dance conservatories, dance studios, ballets, or theaters
- Local multimedia/video production companies
- Newspaper journalists, editors, or photographers
- Local television stations
- Arts advocacy organization presidents or directors

Inviting professionals in the arts or influential community leaders to participate in Reflections Program judging increases the exposure of your PTA, its work, and the wonderful benefits students derive from participating in the arts.

Once judges are selected, provide them with the **General Student Participation Rules and their Arts category Rules, as well as the Judging Rubric.**

Remember to recognize judges in promotions and thank them for their participation. Some PTAs provide each judge with a small gift or certificate of appreciation.

Avoiding Conflicts of Interest

It is always preferable to conduct Blind Judging. For example, teachers from the host school may know student work and/or have a conflict of interest in judging, so it is better, whenever possible, to invite teachers from another school that offers the Reflections Program.

File names are listed in the bottom right hand corner of all forms so that student names can be easily covered or so that the bottom of the form can simply be folded over during the judging process.

Beyond the local PTA level, blind judging will need to occur only if there is a chance that the judges may know a student. In most situations, judges at the council and district/region levels should be able to use the original materials for judging.

Sample Judging Rubric

Below is a basic judging rubric units may use in evaluating entries and assigning awards. All entries should be judged on artistic merit/creativity, mastery of the medium, and, most heavily, interpretation of the theme.

Tiebreakers: If two entries are judged as equal across all areas, the entry that best interprets the theme receives more recognition.

A local, council, or district/region judging process could have a similar design.

Sample Judging Rubric

Interpretation of Theme	How closely the piece relates to the theme, based on the artwork itself and the artist statement	20pts
Artistic Merit/Creativity	How creative and original the piece is in its conception of the theme and its presentation	10pts
Mastery of Medium	The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/ techniques of the arts area	10pts

With this rubric, each entry would have a total of no more than 40 possible points from each judge. Add the points from each judge and rank the artwork accordingly. A sample chart is included below for reference:

Sample Scoring Chart

Name of Entry	Interpretation of Theme	Artistic Merit/Creativity	Mastery of Medium	Total Points
Allison Denny	18	7	7	32
Jane Smith	15	8	7	30
Tom Smyth	8	7	8	23
John Doe	10	5	5	20