



National PTA® Reflections

Music Composition Rules



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 tablature.*

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

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.

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.

Presentation: Audio must be at least 1 minute and not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size. An audio file will be used for judging. If uploading to NPTA database, only upload an audio file. An optional video file may accompany the audio entry for promotion, or display, purposes at the county or state level.

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. 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. Number each page. Print on 8.5x11 (one sided only) or save/scan score as a single PDF.

Packaging:

- Accepted audio file formats: MP3, WAV, or FLAC. **Free** conversation software can be found online.
- Label audio file, notation/score (if applicable), video file (optional) and media with FL.MC.Division.LastName.FirstName (Example: PA.MC.PRI.SMITH.JOHN). Use PRI, INT, MID, HS or SA for the division level.
- Submit music composition, notation/score (if applicable) and student entry form using a 9 x 12 clasp envelope with a sheet protector attached to the front. Slip the student entry form into the sheet protector. Place everything else inside the envelope. **DO NOT** seal the envelope, use the clasp. **DO NOT** glue the entry form onto the envelope, use the sheet protector.
- Make a copy of the entry form, audio file, and notation/score (if applicable) for your own files. Original entries will not be returned.

Submission:

- Contact your county council regarding submission requirements. Non Council units, contact cultural.arts@floridapta.org for further instructions.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.