

HOW REFLECTIONS WORKS

Students like you make projects that are inspired by a theme. This year's theme is **"Accepting Imperfection"**. You can make a project in as many categories as you want, but only one per category. Some schools may choose to offer just a few of those categories, so check with the Reflections chairperson at your school. It's free to enter!

This is a national competition. We will judge all entries from Livonia Public Schools. We choose up to four winners in each age range and category. Then we send those winners on to be judged at the state level. Top winners at the state level move on to the national judging.



GENERAL RULES

If you are interested in participating in Reflections, it is important to follow all of the rules. Here are some of the general rules:

- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Students may only submit one entry per category.
- Each entry may only be submitted by one student. For example, if your friends appear in your entry (like for film production or dance), only the person who is responsible for creating the concept and leading the project can enter their name on the entry form.
- The work must be your own. Parents or other grown-ups may not help. (Exceptions apply for Accessible Arts division)
- To keep the judging anonymous, you may not include your full name on the work. That means no signatures on your visual arts piece and no artist name written or spoken in other pieces.
- Use of copyrighted material is prohibited, except for cited background music in dance choreography and specific exceptions in film production and visual arts entries. See category guidelines for details.
- You must submit a separate entry form for each entry. This form will include your artist statement, which tells the judges how your project fits with the theme of "Accepting Imperfection".
- You must include a consent form for any person whose face, voice, or live playing of an instrument is included in your entry.

WRITING YOUR ARTIST STATEMENT

Your artist statement is important, so give it some thought. It must be between 10 and 100 words and must describe what your work is and how it relates to the theme. But how do you do that? You could tell us how you got the idea for the project or what "Accepting Imperfection" means to you. Be as clear as you can. Your artist statement is an important part of the judging. But make sure they are your own words – not your grown-up's.

WHERE TO FIND THE ENTRY FORM AND YOUR REFLECTIONS CHAIR

For the official LPTSA electronic entry form, consent form, and a list of Reflections chairs for each school, go to the Reflections page on the Livonia PTSA council website at: <https://livoniaptsaouncil.org/work/reflections-arts-awards-competition/>.

GRADE DIVISIONS

Entry forms will be sorted into the following divisions by grade:

- Primary: Pre-K through Grade 2
- Intermediate: Grades 3 through 5
- Middle School: Grades 6 through 8
- High School: Grades 9 through 12
- Accessible Arts: All Grades (Students who identify as having a disability and may receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504 may enter in the Accessible Arts Division. See official rules.)

IMPORTANT DATES

Mark these dates on your calendar!

November 10, 2025

Deadline for students to turn in projects to their school's Reflections chairperson.

TBD Spring 2025

Stay tuned for the date of our district celebration for all Reflections participants.

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

These are some of the key points to consider for each category. Read the official rules for more details.

Visual Arts



- You may create a work of fine or design art, including but not limited to: architectural drawing and models, carpentry, ceramics, collage, computer-generated images, crafts, design, dioramas, drawing, fiberwork, jewelry, fiber work, mixed media, painting, printmaking and sculpture.
- 2D artworks must be mounted on sturdy material (cardboard or poster board is acceptable) and no larger than 24x30 inches with matting. No frames. Include one digital image of artwork with your submission (JPEG, JPG, or PNG format).
- 3D artworks may be no larger than 24x24x24 inches and must be sturdy enough to ship to the national office, should it win at the national level. Include 3 digital images of artwork at different angles (JPEG, JPG, or PNG format).
- See category guidelines document for rules about copyrighted materials.

Literature



- Accepted forms of fiction and nonfiction include: Prose, poetry, reflective essay, screenplay and play script, narrative, and short story.
- Entrants may write in their primary language as long as they attach an interpretive English translation.
- See category guidelines for acceptable use of typing or dictation.
- Writing must not exceed 2,000 words and may be handwritten or typed. Number each page.
- Accepted formats: PDF file.

Photography



- Photo must be a single print/digital image. Collages and collections of photos are not accepted.
- Entrant must be the photographer and may use a variety of digital editing techniques, including but not limited to, multiple exposure, negative sandwich, and photogram.
- Submit a digital and printed version of the photo. Printed version must be no smaller than 3x5 and no larger than 8x10, and should be mounted on sturdy material such as poster board no larger than 11x14. No frames.
- The digital version must be the actual photo you took. It cannot be a photo of the printed version.
- Digital image dimensions must be at least 640x960 (pixels) and 300 dpi (resolution).
- Accepted file formats: JPEG, JPG, or PNG.

Film Production



- Accepted short film styles include: Animation, narrative, documentary, experimental or media presentation.
- Entrant must be the screenwriter, editor and producer. Actual camera work does not have to be by the student. Footage filmed by family or friends for some other purpose (such as a past family vacation, a past performance, etc.) and not for the sole purpose of this contest is not acceptable.
- If background music is used, it must be cited on the entry form.
- See category guidelines document for rules about copyrighted materials.
- Video file must not exceed 5 min. and 1 GB in size.
- Accepted formats: AVI, MOV, or MP4.

Dance Choreography



- Solo and ensemble works of all dance styles are accepted.
- Entrant must be the choreographer and may also be the performer, or one of the performers.
- If background music is used, it must be cited on the entry form.
- Video file must not exceed 5 minutes and 1 GB in size. Solo performances up to 2:45 minutes are preferred, but up to 5 minutes is acceptable.
- Accepted formats: AVI, MOV, or MP4.

Music Composition



- All music styles and combinations of instrumentation are accepted.
- Entrant must be the composer and may also be the performer, or one of the performers.
- Software may be used to produce recordings. Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted.
- Use of copyrighted material is prohibited.
- Audio file must not exceed 5 min. and 1 GB in size.
- Accepted formats: MP3, WAV. Must be an audio file - NOT a video file.
- Notation (score/tabature) in PDF format is required for middle and high school divisions, and optional for younger divisions. Accepted notations/scores: traditional or tabature music score/notation or a written reflective statement that provides a musically technical explanation of how the music was created (100 words or less) in PDF format.