

# WELCOME TO 2024 LEADERSHIP CONVENTION

Session will begin soon





DEVELOP  
ADVOCATE  
ENGAGE

UTAH

**Develop** programs, resources, and leadership skills that enhance the lives of all children, youth, and their families.

**Advocate** by speaking on behalf of all children and youth in schools, in the community, before governmental bodies, and before other organizations that make decisions affecting children.

**Engage** the public in united and equitable efforts to secure the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and social well-being of all children and youth.

# Reflections: Beyond the Basics

Presenter: Rebekah Pitts

Utah PTA Reflections Board Specialist

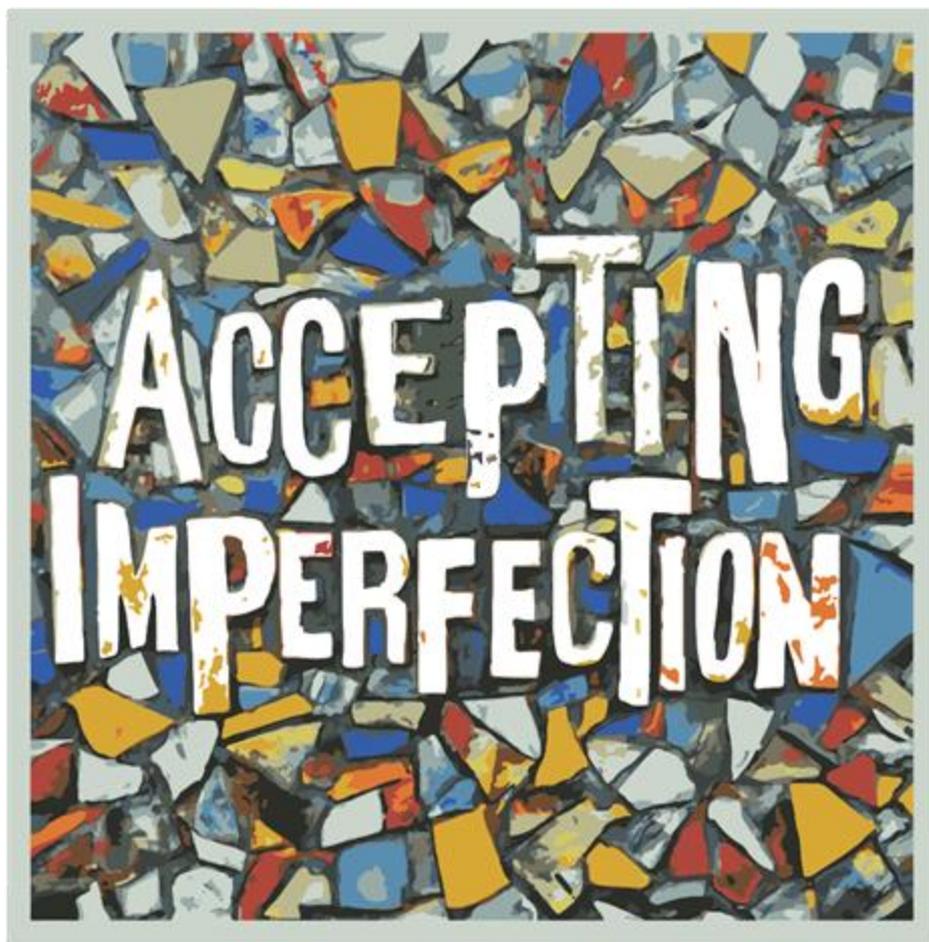


# REFLECTIONS 2024-2025

## Accepting Imperfection

NAVIGATING  
CHANGES FOR THIS YEAR  
COMMON ISSUES  
BEST PRACTICES  
QUALIFYING ENTRIES





**What is the biggest  
mistake Reflections  
specialists make?**

Failing to read the  
rules and ALL  
materials provided  
for Reflections  
chairs every year.



EVERYONE needs to read the Reflections Leaders [Info Section](#) and the Official Rules and Rules for each category. [Link](#) EVERY YEAR.

## Rules/Procedure are not the same in every state:

National PTA releases rules each year. Each state can adjust the rules as desired to be more restrictive than the national rules. We are even allowed to be less restrictive, but this would hurt us in the national competition as our entries could be disqualified, unless we get national permission to have less restrictive rules.



Some states restrict literature entries to 1,000 words. Some don't allow photomontages. Some states allow multiple entries per student in each category. I think Utah is the only state that has 7 categories, separating 2D and 3D artwork. It's very important to read and follow the rules for YOUR state. Hopefully you live in Utah since you are here today. Read and follow the Utah PTA Reflections handbook and rules. Use the Utah PTA Reflections forms and site.



# ONLINE REFLECTIONS

We had over 16,000 entries submitted last year through Utah Reflections Online. While there are still some learning opportunities, overall, it is a huge success. Reflections entries will continue to be submitted, managed, and judged 100% online.



## 3 Options for Uploading Entries:

1. Parent account - ideal
2. Student account - need permission form
3. Uploaded by specialist with substitute entry form

These forms are found online in the Leader's Section



# CHANGES FOR 2024-2025

This presentation will cover ALL of the changes for next year. However, if you find a change that I forgot to cover during this class, you will win one or more of following prizes:

1. Absolutely nothing
2. Eternal fame and glory
3. A good night's sleep
4. An invitation to join the state Reflections committee



# CHANGES FOR 2024-2025

Literature and film rules changes

Allowed formats for video and audio

Technical Details section

Choreography description

Number of Judges

Division Name Change

Full Names Focus

AND...



# Advancement Rules Changes



## Award of Excellence Chart

*Local sending to Council*

This chart explains how many entries per CATEGORY to send to the Council.  
Only Award of Excellence winners advance in Reflections.

GRADE DIVISIONS IN THE SCHOOL						
PRESCHOOL THROUGH 5TH GRADE	PRESCHOOL THROUGH 6TH GRADE	6th-7th GRADE	6th-8th GRADE	7th-9th GRADE	8th-9th GRADE	9th-12th GRADE
1 Primary Division	1 Primary Division					
1 Intermediate Division	1 Intermediate Division					
	1 Middle School Division					
				1 High School Division	1 High School Division	1 High School Division
1 Accessible Arts Division	1 Accessible Arts Division	1 Accessible Arts Division	1 Accessible Arts Division	1 Accessible Arts Division	1 Accessible Arts Division	1 Accessible Arts Division
<p>After assigning an Award of Excellence to the highest scoring entry in each division, you may choose to award up to 3 total additional Awards of Excellence from the division(s) of your choice. They must be the next highest scoring entries in their divisions.</p> <p><b>Award of Excellence Winners will automatically advance to the next level.</b> (new for 2024-25 school year)</p>						
<p>No substitutions are allowed due to a division receiving no entries.</p>						
GRAND TOTAL up to 8 per category	GRAND TOTAL up to 7 per category	GRAND TOTAL up to 5 per category	GRAND TOTAL up to 5 per category	GRAND TOTAL up to 6 per category	GRAND TOTAL up to 6 per category	GRAND TOTAL up to 5 per category

## Award of Excellence Chart

*Council sending to Region*

This chart explains how many entries per CATEGORY to send to the Region.  
Only Award of Excellence winners advance in Reflections.

GRADE DIVISIONS IN THE COUNCIL					
PRIMARY INTERMEDIATE	PRIMARY INTERMEDIATE MIDDLE SCHOOL	MIDDLE SCHOOL	MIDDLE SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL	PRIMARY INTERMEDIATE MIDDLE SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL
1 Primary Division	1 Primary Division				1 Primary Division
1 Intermediate Division	1 Intermediate Division				1 Intermediate Division
	1 Middle School Division	1 Middle School Division	1 Middle School Division		1 Middle School Division*
			1 High School Division	1 High School Division	1 High School Division
1 Accessible Arts Division	1 Accessible Arts Division	1 Accessible Arts Division	1 Accessible Arts Division	1 Accessible Arts Division	1 Accessible Arts Division
<p>After assigning an Award of Excellence to the highest scoring entry in each division, you may choose to award up to 3 total additional Awards of Excellence from the division(s) of your choice. They must be the next highest scoring entries in their divisions.</p> <p>Award of Excellence Winners will automatically advance to the next level. (new for 2024-25 school year)</p>					
No substitutions are allowed due to a division receiving no entries.					
GRAND TOTAL up to 6 per category	GRAND TOTAL up to 7 per category	GRAND TOTAL up to 5 per category	GRAND TOTAL up to 6 per category	GRAND TOTAL up to 5 per category	GRAND TOTAL up to 8 per category
<p>Large regions that qualify to submit double entries will be notified by the state Reflections specialist on a yearly basis. Your Region Specialist will let you know if they are accepting double entries from Councils.</p>					



## Award of Excellence Chart

*Region sending to State*

**This chart explains how many entries per CATEGORY to send to the State.**

**Only Award of Excellence winners advance in Reflections.**

<p><i>Assign an Award of Excellence to the highest scoring entry in each division.</i></p> <p><i>Award of Excellence Winners will automatically advance to the next level.</i> <i>(new for 2024-25 school year)</i></p>
1 Primary Division
1 Intermediate Division
1 Middle School Division
1 High School Division
1 Accessible Arts Division
<b>GRAND TOTAL: up to 5 per category</b>
<b>No substitutions are allowed due to a division receiving no entries.</b>
<p><i>Large regions that qualify to submit double entries will be notified by the state Reflections specialist on a yearly basis.</i></p>

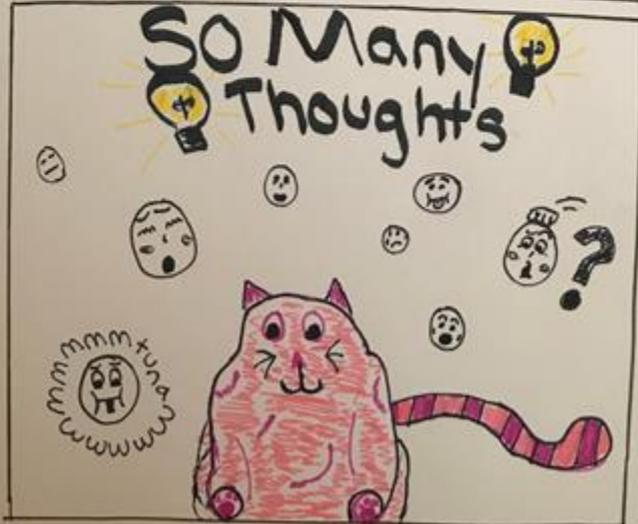
**Starting in 2024-2025, setting an entry as an Award of Excellence will cause it to automatically advance to the next level.**



# COMMON ISSUES FOR LITERATURE CATEGORY

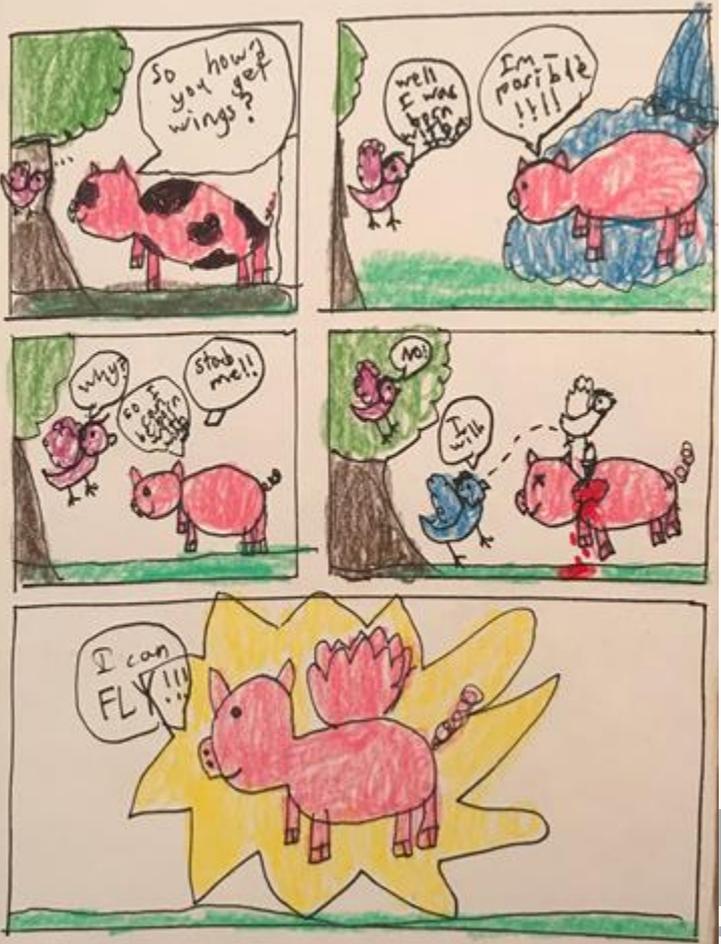


# The Fat Cat



## No Comic Books or Graphic Novels

# When Pigs fly



# No Comic Books or Graphic Novels



# NO COMIC BOOKS OR GRAPHIC NOVELS

Illustrated literature entries are still accepted, but the words need to be able to be judged without seeing the pictures, which will not be judged. Illustrations must be drawn by the student. Clip art is not acceptable. Photos are not accepted.



# COMMON ISSUES FOR 3D VISUAL ARTS CATEGORY



- Multiple pieces, loose pieces, not connected
- Art not original - kits, copying internet idea, class project
- Artwork requiring viewer manipulation is not allowed.



# NO COMIC BOOKS OR GRAPHIC NOVELS

Comic books and graphic novels are a hybrid of literature and 2D Art. There is not a category in Reflections where comic books can shine, so they are not allowed. This change was implemented three years ago, but still needs to be strongly emphasized at the schools.



# NO FRAMES/NO SHADOW BOXES

Frames and shadow boxes are not allowed. A shadow box has glass in it. Frames have glass too. If a student wishes to use a frame or anything like a frame as a piece of the artwork, rather than using it in the traditional way to frame the artwork, they will need to get permission from the **state** to include a frame. Exceptions will not be given to entries with glass still in a frame or shadow box. Three examples that were given an exception:





While this entry uses some sort of premade box, it's not used as a shadow box, there is no glass, and it is part of the art.

This entry originally was created in a shadow box with glass. The student was given a chance to remove the glass and pour resin over the entire entry so that it would comply with the rules.





This entry used the wooden part of a frame in a nontraditional way for 3D art. This type of use is borderline and decisions are made case by case by the State Reflections committee.

# COMMON ISSUES FOR 2D VISUAL ARTS CATEGORY



- Plagiarism on the artwork
- Coloring pages
- Copyright violations
- Parental help





Even if the student decorates the frame, it is not allowed. There will be no exceptions for framed art in the 2D category. However, mats are allowed.

# COMMON ISSUES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORY



NO FRAMES

NO FRAMES

NO FRAMES

This is a national rule.

No exceptions.



- Confusion about mats vs. mounting
- Added graphics or words
- Student not cameraperson
- Borders/neutral space



# BIGGEST PHOTOGRAPHY ISSUE

## Borders

- Borders may not be digitally added to a photography entry, including simple ones such as black and white.
- No borders
- Don't use borders
- Borders are not allowed



Why do we have dimensions for photography if it is all judged online nationally?

I don't know why national PTA still has a size limit for their photos, because they are advanced digitally. But, Utah PTA chose to set the limit at 11X14 because that size should be adequate for any photography entry to be seen well without being so large that it becomes difficult to transport/store.

We have received permission from the national level to have a larger size limit than the national standards.



# COMMON ISSUES FOR FILM PRODUCTION CATEGORY



FILM PRODUCTION is the process of making a film. All filming, screenwriting, directing, and editing must be done by the student producer. All entries must contain only original student footage. The student must be in control of the camera at all times, including when using a tripod, selfie stick, drone, or other film capturing devices. Entries created using presentation software such as PowerPoint and Google Slides are prohibited.

- Student submitting the entry MUST be the cameraman.



# COMMON ISSUES FOR DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY CATEGORY



The choreographer (student submitting entry) may be the performer or one of the people performing, but the choreographer does not have to perform in the entry. All choreography must be done solely by the student entrant.

### Common Issues:

- Entry is not dance choreography.
- Multiple students choreographed entry.
- Routine not original.
- Character copyright violation - costumes, artist statements



# CHANGES/COMMON ISSUES FOR MUSIC COMPOSITION CATEGORY



Notation is optional for Primary, Intermediate, and Accessible Arts Divisions. Last year, National did not allow us to upload it for those divisions, so we took the option away, but it was allowed this year, so we are bringing it back.



This change happened 3 years ago, but many specialists did not read the rules and disqualified entries for submitting a technical reflective statement.

Middle and high school grade divisions require either a music score/notation (traditional or tablature) or a written reflective statement that provides a musically technical explanation of how the music was created (100 words or less).



# WHAT TYPES OF THINGS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A REFLECTIVE STATEMENT?

- What creative and musical decisions did you make to achieve the final version of the piece?
- How were the musical elements developed?
- What equipment was used (if any)?
- What sounds and/or musical ideas were used to represent certain ideas or emotions?
- How were your creative and musical decisions influenced by your expertise, context, and expressive intent?

(Found on the Music FAQs)

## Common Issues:

- parent wrote accompaniment
- notation/reflective statement not included for Mid/HS divisions
- incomplete notation - all parts included in recording must be notated
- song is not original composition



# **CHANGES/CLARIFICATIONS NOT SPECIFIC TO A CATEGORY**



# QUALIFYING ENTRIES



# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO QUALIFY ENTRIES?

1. Qualifying entries means checking them to ensure they followed all of the rules for Reflections - category and general.
2. It's best to qualify entries BEFORE judging. If you can't, do it before assigning awards.
3. Entries that “automatically” win must still be qualified.
4. Once an entry is qualified, it can earn an award. Awards are given based on highest scores, however low those might be.



Utah Reflections Online makes qualifying so easy. The online entry form weeds out a lot of previous issues.

We still had to disqualify a few entries at state.



In 2019-2020 the state committee disqualified 14 of 83 film entries submitted to state. They were from 11 of the 18 participating regions. This statistic made us realize that QUALIFYING entries needs to happen on EVERY level and that training on qualifying is needed.

In 2020-2021, we only disqualified 2 film entries at the state level - for the parent filming, and for a lack of a consent form. However, many entries were disqualified for these reasons at lower levels.

We've made AMAZING progress! In 2021-2022, only 6 entries total were disqualified at state. But, 448 entries were disqualified overall.

Educate specialists

Educate students

Educate parents

Don't over-disqualify -

Read rules. Ask questions. Don't assume.

Local Level is the Fix It level

463 DQs statewide in 2023-2024

12 DQs at state

**MOST COMMON ISSUES  
THAT RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION**

# **LITERATURE CATEGORY:**

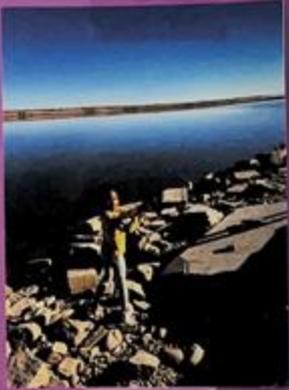
Photos

Comic Books/Graphic Novels

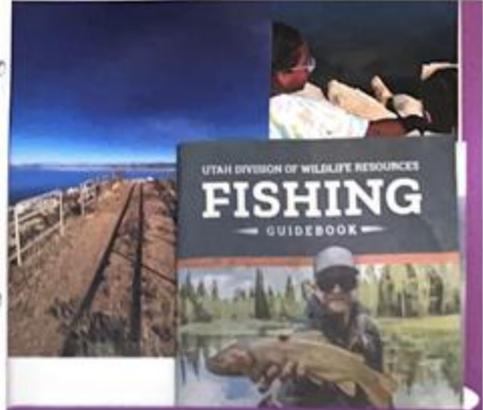
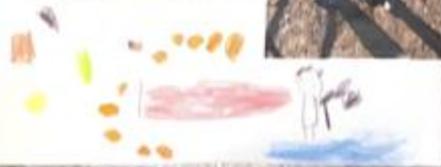
Copyright

Literature is the least problematic category

- Submitted to wrong school
- Duplicate
- Entered twice-different entries
- Turned in after judging ended



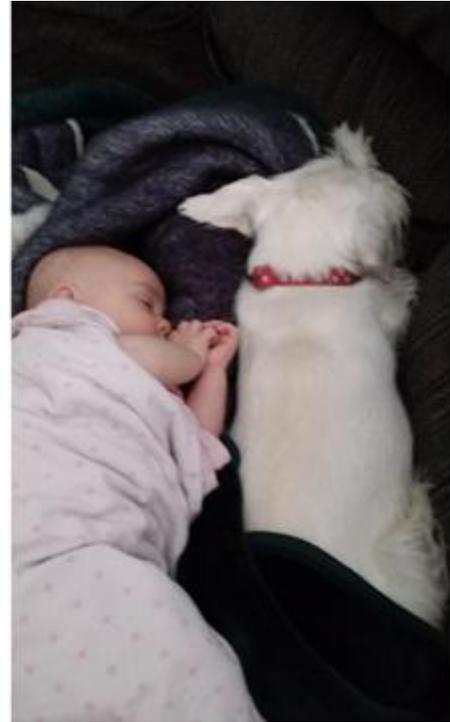
MX TRIP  
WITH MX  
COUSIN



**What's wrong with this literature entry?**

# What's wrong with this entry?

When I was a  
baby I did not get  
taken care of.



# What's wrong with this entry?

Title: Our Own Captain Underpants Comic Book

Student Information -

First Name:

Roxy (and Dottie, Maverick & Reese)

Last Name:

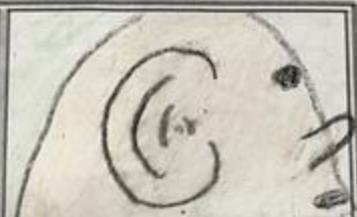
Worthen

Artist Statement:

All of the kids in my family worked together to make this comic book. We had a lot of fun working together and we all used our own talents to make it awesome.



one day captin



under pants here



a alarm of a UFO.



Oh no!

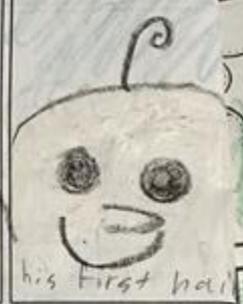


a UFO!

© 2014 by Rock Activities, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Print as is. What's Next?



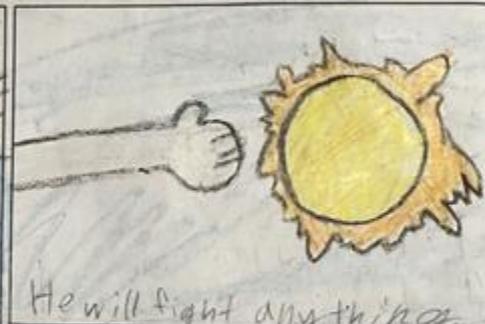
Oh. I forgot, he grew



his first hair



He loves to fight.



He will fight anything.



gorge and Hor led



run to zuph needs pants

What's Next?

**Issue identified, but not fixed.  
Entry was advanced to State.**



Hope is the rainbow in the rain.

Hope is the engine on the train.

Hope is a hug when you are feeling sad.

Hope is spending time with my dad.

Hope is praying when you are scared.

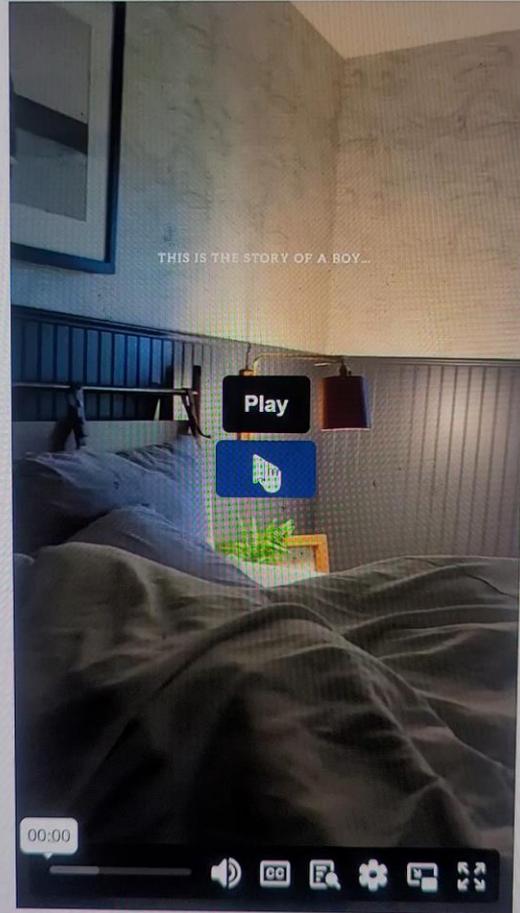
Hope is love that you have shared.

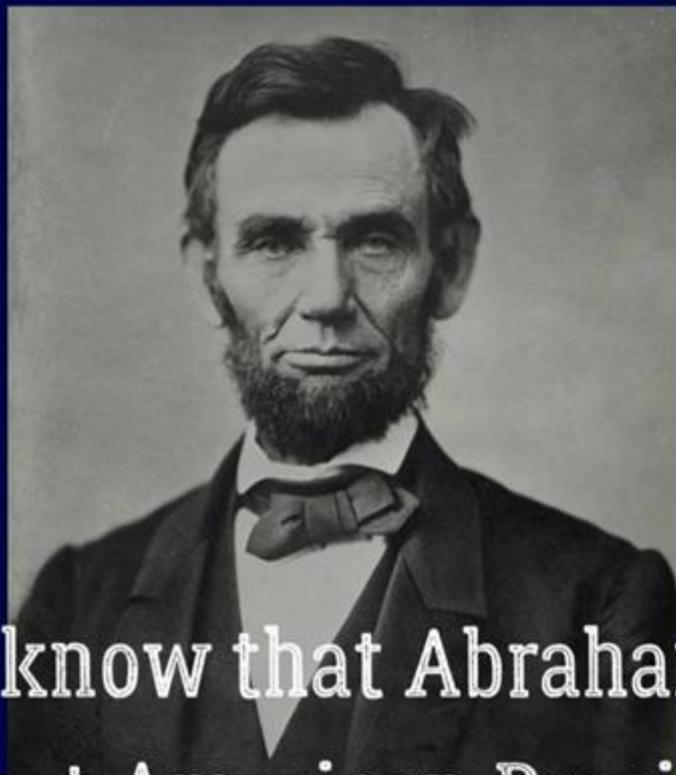
**FILM PRODUCTION  
CATEGORY:  
Someone other than  
student was the  
cameraman for all or part  
of film.**

Copyright  
Violations  
Photos  
Screenshots

**Artist Statement:** This entry is from Sam Farley and Aven Perucca with Teddy Richards filming. We wanted to do a movie and thought the song we picked was super funny about a guy using his voice about his strange neighbor.

**What's wrong with this entry?**

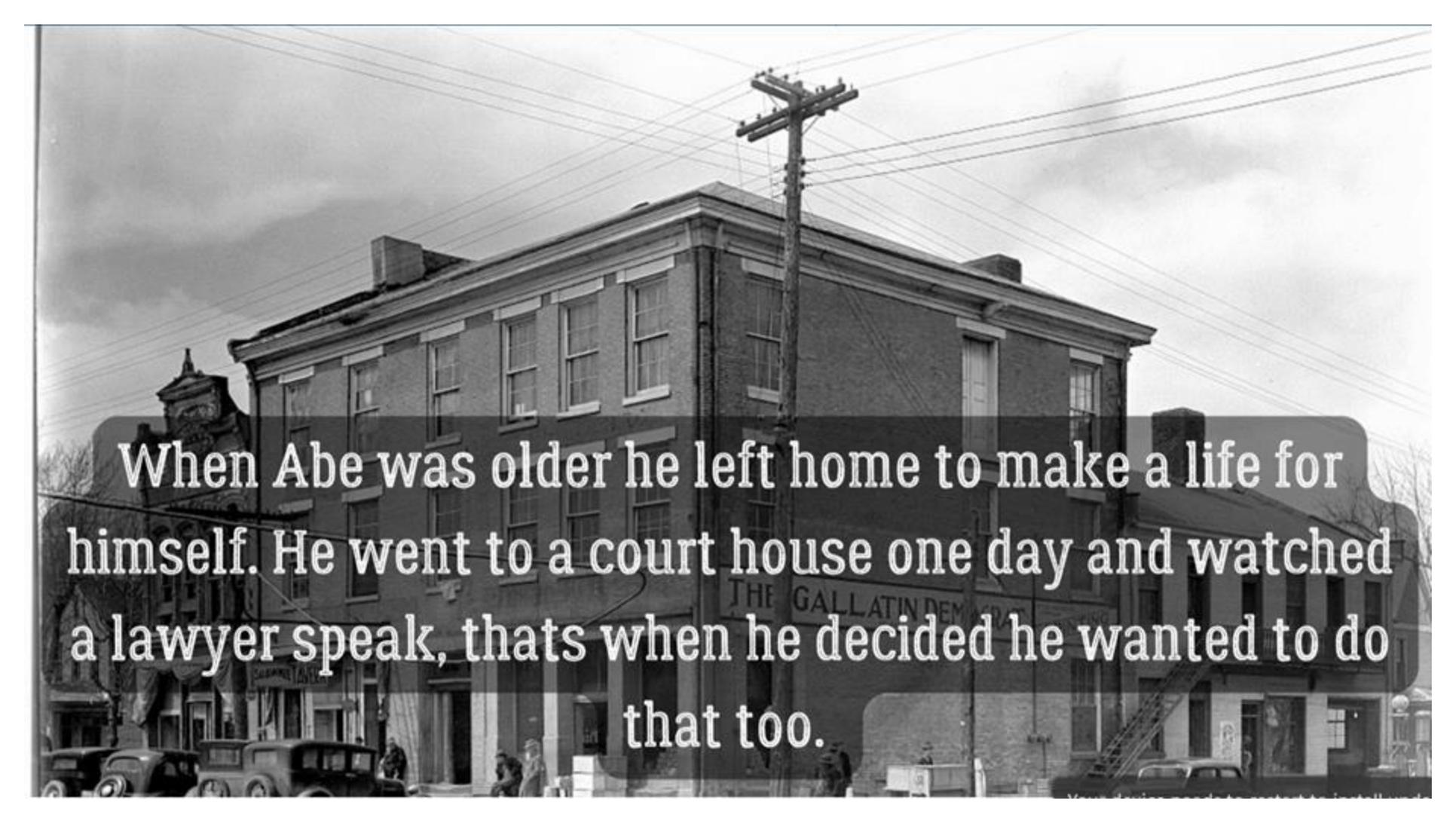




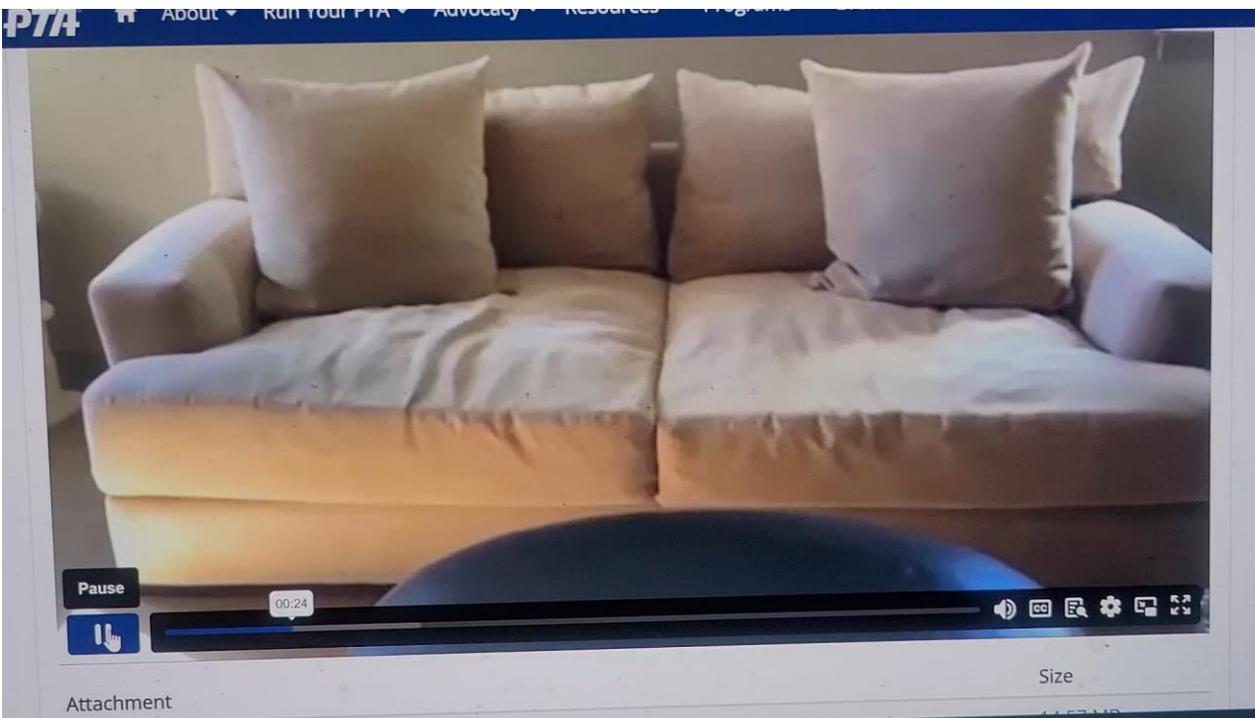
Most people know that Abraham Lincoln was  
a great American President...

Play

00:06

A black and white photograph of a street scene. The central focus is a large, three-story brick building with a flat roof and a cornice. A tall utility pole stands in front of the building, with several power lines stretching across the sky. To the left, a smaller building with a clock tower is visible. In the foreground, several vintage cars from the early 20th century are parked along the street. A semi-transparent dark box is overlaid on the middle of the image, containing white text. The text reads: "When Abe was older he left home to make a life for himself. He went to a court house one day and watched a lawyer speak, thats when he decided he wanted to do that too." The background shows a cloudy sky and other buildings in the distance.

When Abe was older he left home to make a life for himself. He went to a court house one day and watched a lawyer speak, thats when he decided he wanted to do that too.



**What's wrong with this entry?**

**3D Visual Arts Category:**  
**Multiple pieces**  
**Loose pieces**  
**Piece required assembly**  
**or manipulation**

Artwork containing loose materials is not accepted. Separate pieces submitted as one entry are not allowed.



**What's wrong with  
this entry?**



**What's wrong with  
this entry?**



**What's wrong with  
this entry?**



**What's wrong with  
this 3D entry?**



**What's wrong with  
this entry?**

**DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY**  
**CATEGORY:**  
**Choreographed by multiple  
people**

Dance: Student entered using choreography routine learned in dance studio or on the internet.

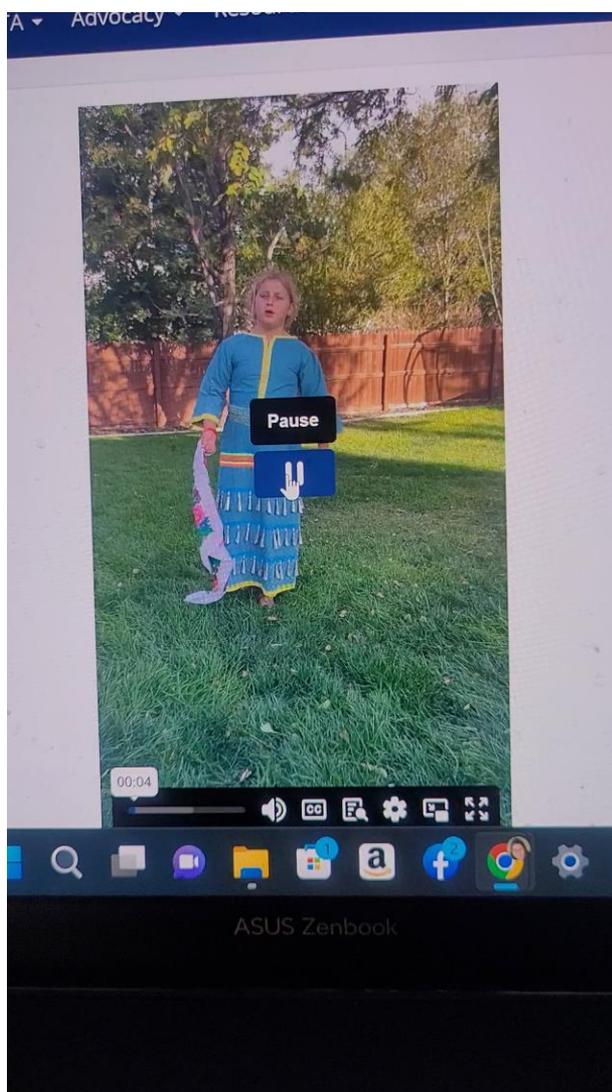
# What's wrong with this entry?

## Artist Statement:

I chose to dance to "Down Like That" by Bryson Tiller because it's really beautiful music. I chose to do a big spin and put my hands out like paws because the song is from Paw Patrol and I love Paw Patrol. I love how I can dance always and I am hopeful because no one can take that away from me. It feels good to be dancing. I use my imagination when I dance and I pretend I am dancing with the Paw Patrol.



**What's wrong with  
this entry?**

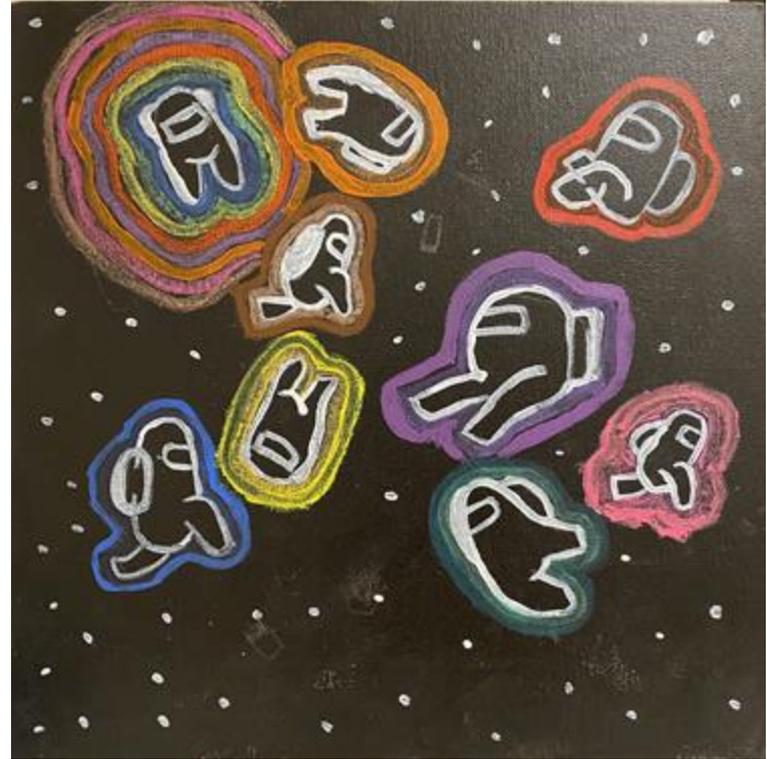


**What's wrong with this entry?**

## 2D VISUAL ARTS CATEGORY:

Plagiarism - Painting  
had poem or song  
on the artwork and  
credit was not given  
anywhere.

**2D VISUAL ARTS  
CATEGORY:  
Copyright.  
Artwork focused on  
copyrighted character.**





**What's wrong with  
this entry?**



### **Artist Statement:**

I chose to paint this because I am passionate about showing my voice in keeping our earth clean, and preserving our earth. I also chose to paint this because the Volkswagon cars remind me of peace, and i wanted to symbolize keeping our earth a clean and peaceful place.



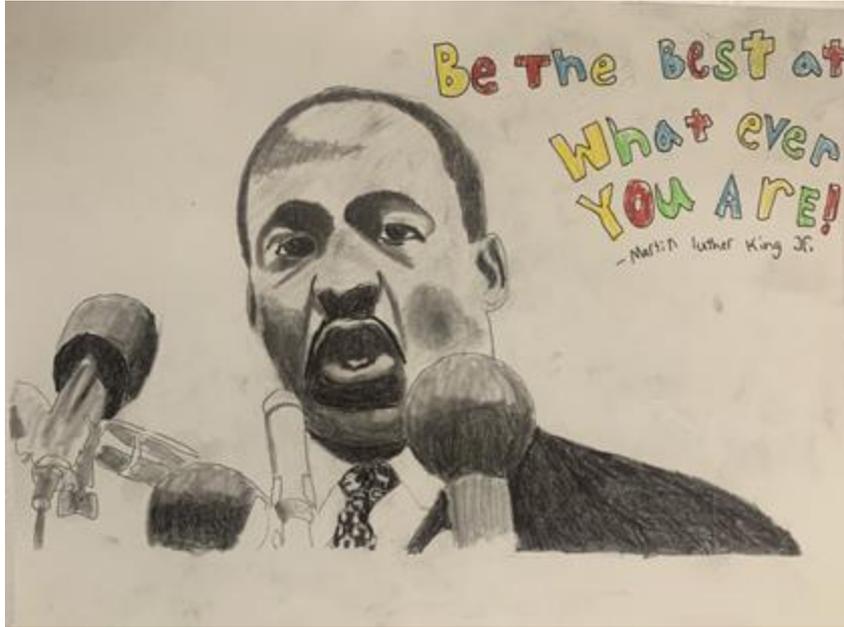
**What's wrong with  
this entry?**



**What's wrong with  
this entry?**



**What's wrong with  
this entry?**



**What's wrong with this entry?**

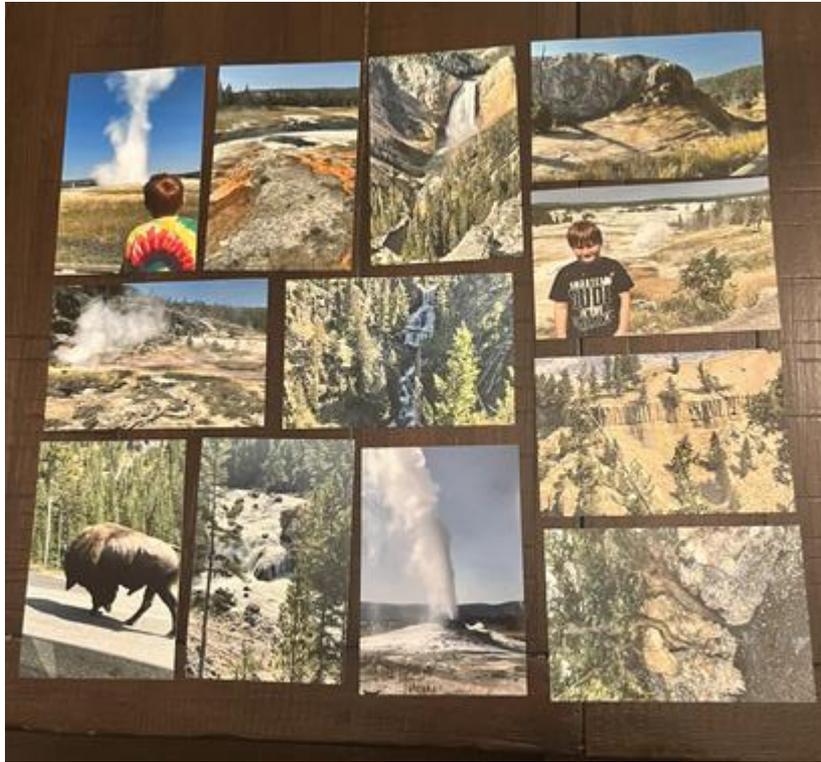
Fair Use laws allow parodies of copyrighted works. Satires are not protected under fair use. This is complicated stuff and each entry needs to be examined individually to determine whether there is a copyright violation.

No  
Frames





**PHOTOGRAPHY  
CATEGORY:  
Student entrant not  
photographer**



**What's wrong with  
this entry?**



**What's wrong with  
this entry?**



## **Artist Statement:**

I can show my voice through playing the clarinet and sharing my love for music. I wanted to learn a new musical skill so my mom has been teaching me to play the clarinet. It takes lots of practice but when I play and share my talent I can share my voice about my love for music.



Note from Admin: Asked parent a question. Parent took the photo.

## Theme: Show Your Voice



I think the world is more beautiful with less litter and trash on the ground. I can show *my* voice by picking up trash.

# What's wrong with this entry?



Entries with added graphics over the image, including lettering, are not accepted. And all photos (including background) must be taken by the student.

**MUSIC COMPOSITION  
CATEGORY:  
Middle and High School  
pieces missing  
notation/reflective  
statement, notation  
incorrect, or incomplete.**

MUSIC  
COMPOSITION  
CATEGORY:

Accompaniment  
written by an adult.

Student performed a  
piece written by  
another composer.

**What's wrong with  
this entry?  
Not a real Entry**





**What's wrong  
with this  
MUSIC  
COMPOSITION  
entry?**

C D ED C D ED C  
Put your worries, put your worries down

C D E D C DA C  
Put your head up and smile now

C GFE D F E DC CG ↗  
Not everything will go our way today

La La La La, ah ah ah ah

E D DC EF GD C  
When the darkness slowly surrounds you

E C G CF E D D C  
Close your eyes until he has found you

E C A C E D D D C  
Take a breath, and let his words show you.

hours ) E D  
No friends  
FF E  
Someone dies  
C E D  
And I'll cry  
C A E  
I'll be lost

CYPER



**What's wrong  
with this  
MUSIC  
COMPOSITION  
CATEGORY entry?**

**ISSUES NOT RELATED TO CATEGORY**

Request for entry  
not to be shared

Piece missing title.  
Only Special  
Artist entries may  
be turned in  
without a title or  
artist statement.

Not created for  
Reflections

Not original

Student not eligible

Duplicate Entry

Sibling Entry Issue

Every year the state has to disqualify entries from schools not in good standing - for failure to pay membership or expired bylaws.

Regions may not give Awards of Excellence to entries from schools not in good standing, meaning those entries cannot advance to state.



Councils: If you have an entry with unpaid membership or expired bylaws, please inform the PTA president at that school and let your region know. By the time the entry gets to region, it's too late to get bylaws re-done in time.

Locals: Get your membership paid and your bylaws updated. December 1st is a HARD deadline for these issues to be resolved. I am not authorized to offer any leniency on that deadline.



**Issues with entries ideally should be addressed  
at the school level.**

**Please qualify your entries.**

# QUALIFYING ENTRIES BEFORE ASSIGNING AWARDS

It's not always reasonable to expect that you will have time to qualify each entry according to the rules before sending them for judging. But, entries are NEVER to be judged without a title and artist statement, except for Special Artist entries.



# QUALIFYING ENTRIES BEFORE ASSIGNING AWARDS

After judging, review your entries that earned the highest scores.

Review one category at a time. Read the rules for that category carefully before beginning.



# QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN QUALIFYING ENTRIES

Have I reviewed the artist statement and title? This can help catch issues such as a student playing a piece he/she didn't compose, dancing to a song with choreography that wasn't created by the entrant, and copyright violations.

Have I watched the film, dance, or listened to the music? Is the student the cameraman? for the entire film? Is notation/reflective statement included in Middle and HS music? If there are vocals, is vocal notation included?



# QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN QUALIFYING ENTRIES

Do any 3D entry pieces contain loose or multiple pieces or require assembly?

Are photography entries free of added graphics or words? Added graphics means images that were not photographed by the entrant (including borders around pictures).



# QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN QUALIFYING ENTRIES

Do any entries focus on a copyrighted character or item? Ask “If this copyrighted portion were removed, would it significantly alter the work?” If so, there is a copyright problem. Is it incidental? Something incidental could be removed and the essence of the piece would remain the same. Then it can stay.



# QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN QUALIFYING ENTRIES

Sometimes it is clear when a piece has a violation. Other times, it is not clear. In those instances, it is best to ask the student or parent for clarification. If the piece does need to be disqualified, this is an opportunity to educate both the student and the parent and gives the student a better chance of having a winning entry the following year.

At times, the violation is something that can be fixed if time allows. Often, it is not possible to fix it without the student starting over or significantly altering the piece. In those instances, explain the issue, but still disqualify the piece.

**DO NOT GIVE AWARDS TO DISQUALIFIED ENTRIES.**



# SAMPLE ARTIST STATEMENTS THAT INDICATE A POSSIBLE VIOLATION

“Our dance relates to the theme because in the dance we are stuck doing the same thing and then we find ourselves and we don't need to copy each other any more.”

Don't assume. Ask the student/parent if the piece is the work of the student or if the students collaborated. In almost every situation where rules were violated, the student/parent didn't understand the rules and the violation was not intentional. The piece must still be disqualified, but use this opportunity to teach the rules and show compassion.



# SAMPLE ARTIST STATEMENTS THAT INDICATE A POSSIBLE VIOLATION

“My mom helped me build this robot. It fits the theme because if you look inside you will see what makes it work.”

Don't assume. Ask the student/parent what type of help was involved. Maybe the mother only helped by purchasing supplies. If that is the case, invite the student to change the artist statement.



# QUESTION/SHARE TIME



# CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK

- Utah PTA
- Utah PTA Advocacy
- Utah PTA Super Secondary
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