



Photography



PHOTOGRAPHY is the process of creating an image. The photographer (student submitting entry) is a person who captures their thoughts and ideas with a camera. By focusing on objects using various lenses, filters and light sources, photographers may demonstrate the use of photographic techniques conventionally or digitally.

See Photography FAQ on next page for more information.

Accepted forms of photography include: A single photo, panoramic, photomontage (one print of multiple original photos), a multiple exposure, negative sandwich, or photogram. Original black-and-white and color images are accepted.

Non-accepted forms of photography include: Entries with added graphics, including lettering and space between photos, are not accepted. Collages and collections of photos are not accepted. Original film (negatives or transparencies) and multidimensional pieces are not accepted.

Whether an entry displays use of technologies or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses their artistic vision to portray the theme, originality, and creativity. **Consider use of objects, lighting, and the location to show a clear relation of the photo to the theme in the artwork and in the artist statement.**

Digital technology and/or software can be used to develop, enhance and/or present an entry but may not provide the primary design and/or concept. Use of AI Software is prohibited. **Entrants must use the “Additional Details” field to provide a brief description of the tools and methods used in the creation process.**

Copyright: Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. Use of copyrighted material, including any copyrighted characters or likeness thereof, material downloaded from the internet, copyrighted photographs or stock images is not acceptable in any visual arts submission, with the following exceptions:

Photographs may include public places, well-known products, trademarks, or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and is a smaller element of a whole. The resulting work cannot try to establish an association between the student and the trademark/business/material, or influence the purchase/non-purchase of the trademarked good.

Submission Requirements:

- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- If collected for display, print must be no smaller than 3x5 inches and no larger than 11x14 inches and must be mounted or matted to protect the print. Dimensions include matting. No frames allowed.
- No added graphics are allowed, including letters, images, or borders or any kind.
- **Accepted file format is JPG.**

How to Submit:

- All entries must be submitted online at www.utahpta.org/ref. All judging will be conducted online.
- Be prepared to upload a digital copy of your Photography entry.
- Your school may request a physical copy of your Photography entry for display purposes.
- Printed entries should be matted or mounted on sturdy material such as cardboard or poster board.
- Label the back of physical entries with student's first and last name.



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Frequently Asked Questions



The rules say collages are not allowed, but montages are allowed. What's the difference?

In Reflections, a photographic collage would be created by taking physical prints of photos and cutting and pasting them together on a flat surface, such as cardstock or poster board. A person making a collage might rip the photos or use scissors and would also use adhesive, such as tape or glue. Photo collages are not allowed in the Photography category of Reflections. A photo montage is created by combining photographs digitally. When it is printed, it is one seamless print. Photomontages are allowed in Reflections. There should be no spaces between images. All photographs used must be originals taken by the student entrant.

What is the difference between mounting and matting?

Mounting means to secure the printed photo to a piece of cardboard, cardstock, posterboard, or something similar, using tape or glue, to protect it from being bent. When photography entries are collected, we ask students to mount their photos to protect them. Mounting does not show from the front. Matting is the process of placing a mat around a printed photo. Mats can be purchased or handmade. A mat does show around the outside of a photo. Mats are not required, but may be added to a photography entry if desired.

Entries are turned in online, so why do I have to print my photo and turn that in too?

Many schools will display entries and will need a printed photo to do that. Be prepared to print and mount or mat your photo. Ask your school's Reflections Specialist if you need to do this. Also, winning entries are passed up through the levels and displayed at awards events. In the summer, state winning Photography and 2D Visual Art entries are displayed.

Can I add graphics to my photo?

No. All parts of your photo must consist of only a photo or photos that you took. Do not add lettering, images, or borders, even simple black or white borders.

Can I add words to my photo?

No. But you can take a picture of things with words on them.

Can I take a picture of myself?

Yes. You can take a selfie using your arm, a selfie stick, a tripod and timer, or some other creative method. If you take a photo of yourself, it's a good idea to mention in the details section how you took the photo. Photos taken by other people will be disqualified.

Can I take a picture with other people in it?

Yes. It's polite to get their permission. However, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, consent forms are no longer required for other people appearing in your entry.

Is AI art allowed? No. All entries must be the original work of one student only. We will not accept entries created by Artificial Intelligence programs.