

Judging Techniques for Reflections

These are the judging methods we use at the Texas PTA. We use these methods because they are quick and fair. We use one method for Visual Arts and Photography and a different method for Literature and Music Composition.

Visual Arts and Photography

- Recruit 3 judges for each arts area.
- Hide the personal information part of the entry form on each entry. (Either fold the entry form or tape a piece of paper over it. Don't cover the artist's statement.
- Spread all the entries out in the judging area so that each entry is easy to see.
- Explain to the judges the three judging criteria (interpretation of theme, creativity, artistic merit). Emphasize that interpretation of theme is the **most** important criterion. (We even have a big poster with the theme on it in the room)
- Give judges *Post-It* flags in a different color for each judge.
- Tell the judges to put a flag on every piece that they think answers all the criteria. They may read the artist's statement if they wish.
- When all the judges have finished, gather up all of the entries that have three different colored flags on them. If there are more of these than you are allowed to advance, then ask the judges to narrow down their choices to the allowable numbers. These are the Awards of Excellence.
- The Awards of Merit are all the entries that have only 2 flags (or were picked from the three flag category not to advance).
- The Honorable Mentions are the entries with one flag on them.
- The entries with no flags should receive the Participation recognition.

Literature, Music Composition, Film/Video, and Dance Choreography

- Recruit 3 judges for each arts area.

Technique #1

- Make copies of each entry for each judge.
- Identify each entry by a number or other piece of identification. (If your judges know none of the students who have entered, you may even use their names.)
- Give the judges the packet of entries and a judging form for each entry.
- Explain that the interpretation of theme section is the most important criterion.
- Judges may read or listen to the entries at home.
- Allow the judges plenty of time to read/listen to the entries (about two weeks)
- The judges fill out the forms and total the score on each form.
- Get the forms back from the judges. Judges keep the entries in case they are needed later to decide an award level.

Technique #2

- Gather the judges all in one place
- Give each judge a pile of judging forms
- Allow judges to watch, read, or listen o the entries all at the same time
- Judges may discuss entries as they hear/watch/read the entries
- Each judge will fill out a judging form for each entry
- Collect the entry forms after judges have finished
- With this judging style, judges may pick their Award winners without the forms if they wish

Then you will:

- Add up the score for each entry
- See “Awards Levels” for suggestions about how to assign awards.
- If there are questions or ties, you may ask to judges to read, watch or listen again to certain entries to make a decision as to the one they prefer.
- Make sure that everyone knows that the decision of the judges is final.
- Securely dispose of judging forms (shred?)

Reflections Program Judging Form

Entry Identification _____

Circle one number in each section

Interpretation of Reflections Theme

1 2 3 4 5

Creativity

1 2 3 4 5

Artistic Merit

1 2 3 4 5

Total score = (Ax2)+B+C
