

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY is the act of creating movement, usually coordinated with music, to represent an idea through dance (e.g., your interpretation of the Reflections theme).

Portray Your Original Choreography

- **Consider the following styles and ensembles:**
 - Ballet, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Jazz, Tap, Folk Dance, Religious Dance, Dance Ensembles (color guard/indoor guard), Ice Skating/Dancing, Gymnastics-floor Routine
- **To show a clear relation to the theme,** use choreographic style and techniques, background song(s), props, etc.





Entry Checklist & Reminders

National-Level Requirements:

- **Student Artist:** Must be the original choreographer. Only the choreographer (e.g., student submitting the entry) is recognized for awards.
- **Performers:** The choreographer may be the performer or one of the performers, but does not have to perform in the entry.
- **Lengths and Size:** Videos must not exceed 5 minutes or 1,000 MB (1,000 megabyte).
- **Cite Sources:** If background music is used, *it must be cited on the entry form.*
- **Formats:** Accepted file formats: MP4, MOV, AVI.

Reminders:

- **Performing others' choreography (e.g., recitals, renditions, dance trends) is not accepted.** Submit only original pieces inspired by the theme.
- **Editing:** Entries with added elements (e.g., graphics, filters) or heavy video editing *are not accepted.*

Category Tips: Artist Statement and Title

Titles and artist statements can be useful in sharing details specific to your choreography that help capture your creative process and theme interpretation. Consider the following:

- **Describe** the choreographic style and techniques, and how your choices connect to the theme or your interpretation.
- **Explain** how background song(s), props, and/or the location influence the narrative of your choreography.
- **Highlight any innovative approaches** or elements that blend traditional elements with contemporary techniques.
- **Discuss** your use of a range of movements, structure, form and/or variations in speed, intensity and emotion, and how your choices convey specific thoughts, feelings or emotions.

Video Quality Tips

Tips for creating, finalizing, and saving a high-quality video file for your submission:

- **Start and end with silence:** Leave two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your recording.
- **Do a test recording:** Record a short test and listen to it. Make sure the record volume is not too high or too low.
- **Remove background noise:** Make the room quiet by turning off things like air conditioners, fans, and phones.
- **Clear background music:** If using background music, make sure it sounds clear in the recording. Using an external speaker can help improve the sound quality.
- **Use the back camera:** If recording with a smartphone, use the back camera for better quality.
- **Keep the camera still:** Use a tripod to hold the camera steady. Avoid editing, multiple angles, and jump cuts, as they can distract from the choreography.
- **Choose good angles:** Make sure the camera shows all of you. Film in a horizontal position (side-to-side) to show more space. Remember that the camera's height affects how you look.
- **Fill the frame:** Try to fill the camera frame with your dance without cutting off any part of your body. Do not film too far away so your facial expressions are still visible. Mark the floor to know where the edges are in the camera frame.
- **Good lighting:** Record in a well-lit space, and try to avoid shadows that block any part of your body or choreography.

Copyright and Plagiarism

Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. Use of copyrighted material is not acceptable, including any copyrighted cartoon characters, material downloaded from the internet, copyrighted recorded music, and/or copyrighted photographs/stock images, except for the following:

- Entries 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/or 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.
- If background music is used in **dance choreography** entries, it must be cited on the entry form (title/artist).



Digital Tools and Technology

Digital technology and/or software may not provide the primary design and/or concept, but can be used to develop, enhance, and/or present an entry. Entries may not be exclusively created with generative tools (e.g., AI), and/or composed exclusively of elements generated or provided by a technology platform.

Accepted:

- Videos may only be minimally edited, using basic visual/audio touch-ups (e.g., remove background noise, crop video background).

Not Accepted

- Videos with extensive edits, added digital graphics, and/or other elements. *Only choreography is scored.*

Guidelines

- **Use Description:** If digital technology software/tools are used in the creation process, including any generative elements (AI), entrants should use the back of the student entry form to briefly describe these methods in 10 to 50 words. This description will be used to assist judging during the evaluation process.
- **Verify Prohibited Technology:** Check if your state PTA prohibits the use of any digital platforms and/or methods (i.e., artificial intelligence). *Ohio PTA does not prohibit the use of digital platforms beyond permitted usage stated in the National PTA Entry, Category, and Division Guidelines.