

VASE References HS/JV



Creating a Reference PDF
For 2026

Requirements for VASE Program Events:

Regional Events for High School VASE and Junior VASE are **in-person**. TEAM is adjudicated virtually. Whether Virtual or In-Person, we will use uploads in addition to information attached to artwork for all events.

Three things are required for each **HS and JV** Entry:

- **Artwork Photo:** Good-quality **COMPLETED** photo of the artwork (no mat needed for photo). Photo should be cropped and straightened; upload in JPEG format, **no larger than 10MB**. Only one image can be uploaded; multiple images of 3D & 2D relief artworks should be presented as a collage (2-5 images in collage saved as JPEG).
- **Reference PDF:** Reference image(s), sketches, and/or production notes should be compiled in PDF format and uploaded; PDF files should be **no larger than 5MB**.
- **Online Student Intent Form:** Completed online. (*Artwork ID Form is printed and attached to entries*).

The VASE Program Artwork Release Form will be collected for each student, alphabetized, and turned in at the Regional Event.

What do I put in my Reference PDF?

Reference image(s), sketches, and/or production notes:

When it comes to images, there is a difference between images you use as **REFERENCES**, and images you use for **RESEARCH**.

When you look at photos of other artists' work for **RESEARCH** purposes, and don't copy them, they are not considered **REFERENCE** images, so they are **NOT** included in the required **Reference PDF**.

The sketch(es) you draw after doing **RESEARCH**, along with original sketches from observation or imagination, are considered your **REFERENCES**, so they are what you include in the **Reference PDF**.

Your **REFERENCE** photos are the photos you took yourself, directed others to take of you, or photos from your family history (see Originality rules). Production notes explain your process as you were making your artwork.

What do I put in my Reference PDF?

Reference image(s), sketches, and/or production notes:

Summary for Teachers & Students:

RESEARCH: The student looks at **NON-ORIGINAL** image(s) to study, but **does NOT copy** them in part or as a whole into the art.

- o **NO:** Students do NOT add **RESEARCH** images to the Reference PDF.

REFERENCE: student's **ORIGINAL** sketches / photos that **ARE copied** in part or as a whole into the art.

- o **YES:** Students MUST add these **REFERENCES** to the Reference PDF.

Creating a Reference PDF File: 5MB maximum file size

The Reference PDF File can be created in:

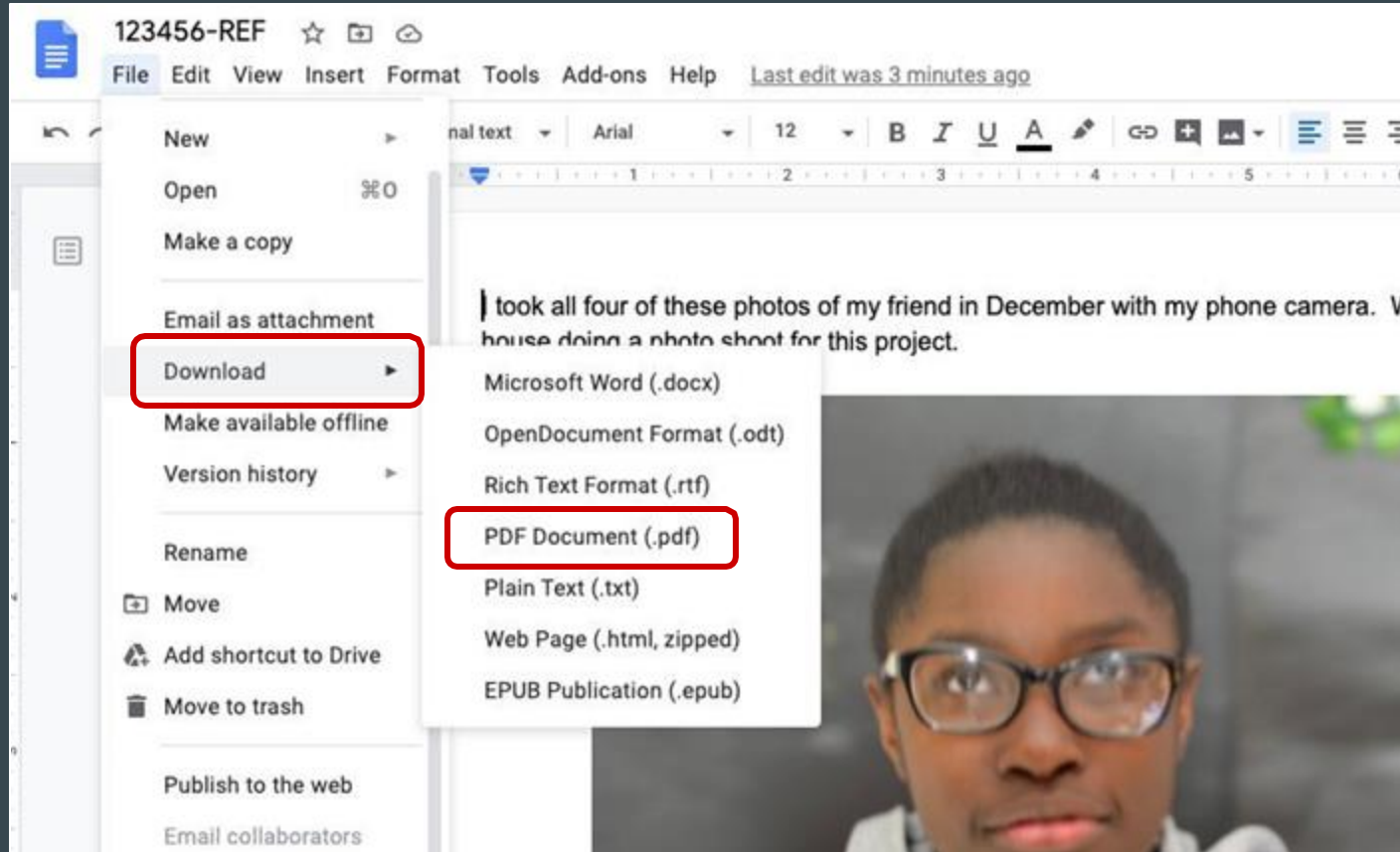
- Microsoft Word (save as PDF)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (save as PDF)
- Google Docs (download as PDF)
- Google Slides (download as PDF)

Notice in the examples how the student typed the identifying information each reference needed.

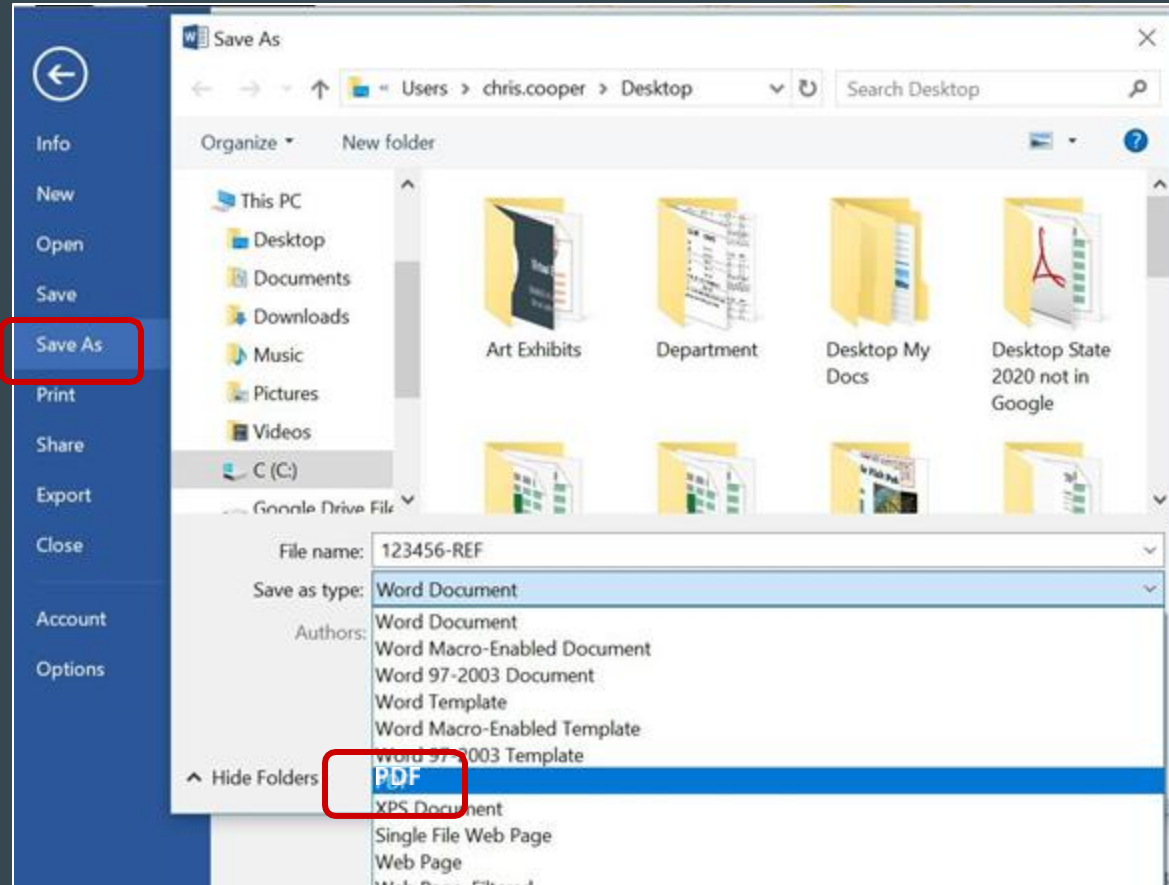
For photo references, basic info should be entered in the Intent Form photo check-box type field.

Saving PDF from Google Drive (Docs or Slides)

DOWNLOAD as PDF



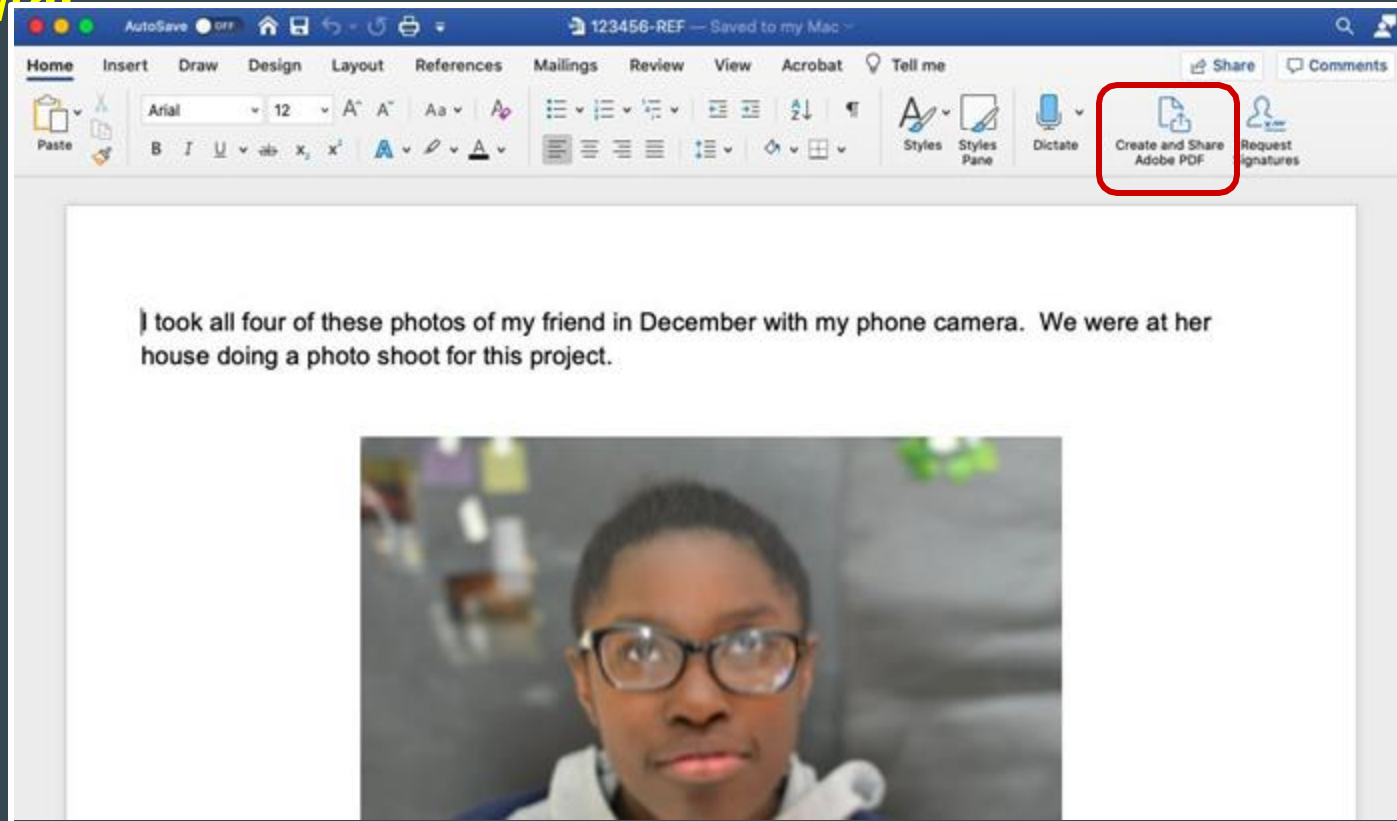
Saving PDF from Office (Word or PowerPoint) on a PC:



PC:

SAVE AS a
PDF

Saving PDF from Office (Word or PowerPoint) on a Mac



MAC:

SAVE AS a
PDF

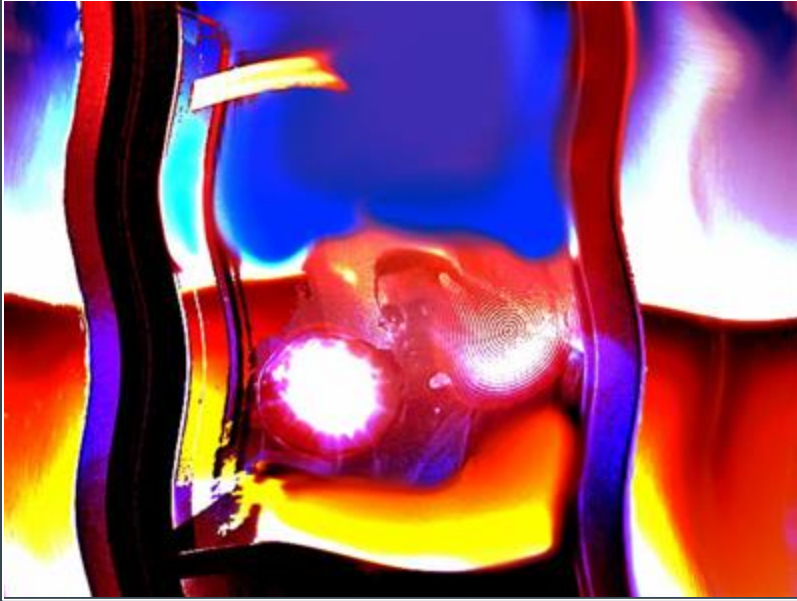
OR

CREATE a PDF
as shown in this
photo

Examples of Reference PDFs:

One original photo

Box 1: “I worked from one or more original photos”



ARTWORK

I wanted a self-portrait so I directed my friend to take this photo of me through the school window with my Canon camera during my art class last month.



REFERENCE

Examples of Reference PDFs: more than one original photo

Box 1: "I worked from one or more or"



ARTWORK

I took all four of these photos of my friend in December with my phone camera. We were at her house doing a photo shoot for this project.



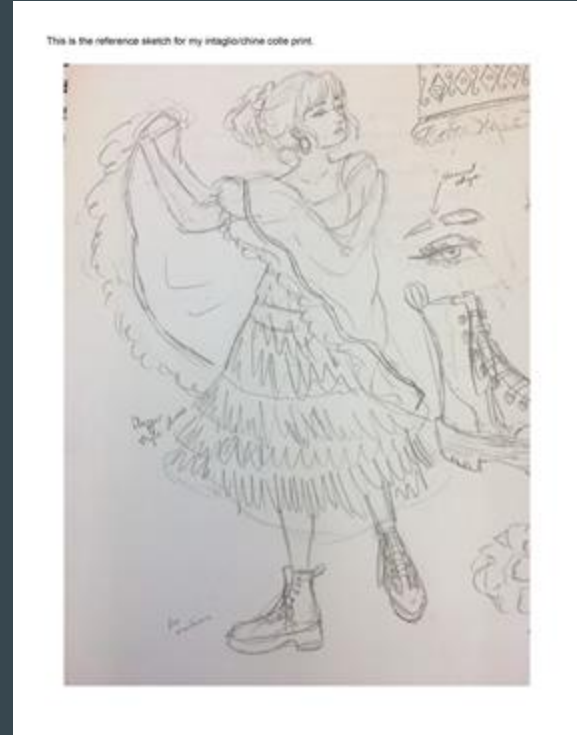
REFERENCES: up to 6 IMAGES per PAGE

Examples of Reference PDFs: One or more sketches

Box 2: “I worked from one or more original sketches, observation, my imagination”



ARTWORK



REFERENCE: up to 6 IMAGES per PAGE

Examples of Reference PDFs:

Box 2: “I worked from one or more original sketches, observation, my imagination”



ARTWORK

I worked from observation on my acrylic painting. I looked in the mirror as I drew the image, and again when I was painting.

REFERENCE

Examples of Reference PDFs:

Box 2: “I worked from one or more original sketches, observation, my imagination”



ARTWORK

I worked totally from my imagination, no sketches. I wanted to show a forest on fire. First I painted a watercolor painting. Then I scanned it in and added effects in Photoshop to make the colors more intense, and add contrast.

REFERENCE

Examples of Reference PDFs:

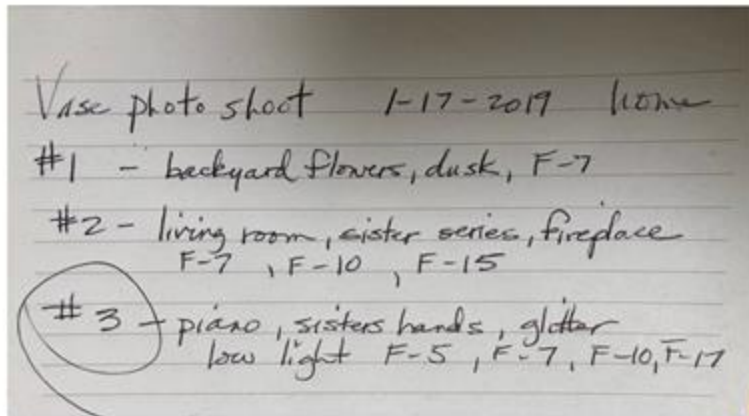
Box 3: "I am entering an original photo"



IMAGE

This is my original photo. I took this photo at my house in the living room of my sister playing the piano in January. I did a whole photo shoot of things at home. I tried different F-stops to get different levels of light.

AND / OR



REFERENCE

Examples of Reference PDFs:

This is an excellent examples of a Reference PDF. Very thorough and explains the process well. Yes, it is OK to include a photo of the finished piece in the Reference PDF *as long as ALL REFERENCES and NOTES are also in there.*

Picture of my artwork:



Picture of my Process Notes:

I worked totally from my imagination—no sketches.

I wanted to show a goat climbing a mountain

First I looked up skeletons and how goat anatomy worked and operated. I found a few videos of how goat joints fit together and how they were able to be so agile

Then I looked up multiple four-legged armatures, and how to make one, so I knew how to simplify the skeleton and anatomy of a goat itself. After that, looked up different breeds of goats and how they varied in muscle shape and fur texture, to get a better understanding of how I wanted mine to look.



Examples of Reference PDFs: This is also an excellent example of a Reference PDF. Very thorough and explains the process well. Yes, it is OK to include a photo of the finished piece in the Reference PDF *as long as ALL REFERENCES and NOTES are also in there.*



I worked from one or more family photos taken by my Mother when my Grandmother lived in the early 2000's at family gatherings. They are apart of my family's history. I wanted to do a front facing portrait, so I used key features from all the pictures to create the front facing view sketch which was original, and proved to be a fun and great challenge.



Examples of Reference PDFs: Planning Document

IMAGINATION, ORIGINAL SKETCHES, OBSERVATION & DIGITAL PRODUCTION REFERENCE

Name: _____ Division: 1 2 3 4 Date: _____

Artwork Title: _____

1. I CREATED AN ORIGINAL ARTWORK FROM:

(Circle all that apply)

My Imagination

Observation

Original Sketches

2. RESEARCH, PRACTICE AND APPLICATION

This can include but is not limited to practice sketches, color studies or other pre artwork production.

INSPIRATION

What are you inspired by? (artist, concept, personal experience, another culture, etc.)



Draw, insert screenshots, or paste process image(s) if you have any in the space below.

PROCESS NOTES

Explain how you created your artwork:

3. MEDIUM/MEDIA

☐ Drawing

CHARCOAL
CHALK
PASTEL
COLORED PENCIL
CRAYON
GRAPHITE
MARKER
OIL PASTEL
PENS/INK
SCRATCH
OTHER _____

☐ Painting

ACRYLIC
CERAMIC GLAZE
GOUACHE
OIL
SOLU GRAPHITE
TEMPERA
WATERCOLOR
OTHER _____

☐ Printmaking

COLLAGAGE
ETCHING
MONOPRINT
RELIEF
SCREENPRINT
OTHER _____
☐ Mixed Media
ASSEMBLAGE
COLLAGAGE
ENCAUSTIC
FOUND OBJECTS
GLASS
QUILLING
OTHER _____

☐ Sculpture

ASSEMBLAGE
CARDBOARD
FOAM
FOUND OBJECTS
METALS
PAPER MACHE
PLASTER
WOOD
OTHER CLAYS
OTHER _____

☐ Fibers

BATIK
CROCHET
EMBROIDERY
FELTING
PAPER MAKING
SEWING
WEAVING
OTHER _____

☐ Jewelry

AIR DRY CLAY
CLAY
GLASS
METALS
PAPER
PLASTICS
POLYMER CLAY
METALS
WOOD
OTHER _____

☐ Design

ELEMENTS
PRINCIPLES

☐ Digital

3D PRINTING
ANIMATION
DIGITAL MEDIA
STOP MOTION
OTHER _____

PHOTOGRAPHY PRODUCTION REFERENCE

Name: _____ Division: 1 2 3 4 Date: _____

Artwork Title: _____

1. SOURCE OF ARTWORK:

I TOOK AN ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPH

2. RESEARCH, PRACTICE AND APPLICATION

INSPIRATION, IDEA OR CONCEPT

Explain with words and/or sketches what you want to achieve or communicate in your photo.



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LOCATION

WHEN(TIME/DATE)

PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT USED (e.g. tripod, lights)

MODELS OR SUBJECT MATTER

ASSISTANT(S)/PRODUCTION CREW

PROCESSING NOTES

How did you use basic photo editing, Photoshop or another editing tool to improve your work or enhance the communication of your idea or concept?

REFLECTION/SELF-EVALUATION

Describe how the photo effectively communicates your idea or concept.

3. MEDIUM/MEDIA

☐ Photography
DIGITAL
TRADITIONAL

Camera Specifications

This is an **OPTIONAL** resource in Teacher Resources. It's a guided VASE planning tool for all types of planning. This was developed by a HS VASE teacher, and could be added easily to a Reference PDF.

Examples of Reference PDFs: Planning Document

This is an excellent example of a guided VASE planning tool that combines sketching with creative thought and writing about art that can be used in a Reference PDF. This was developed by a Junior VASE teacher, and could be added easily to the Reference PDF.



SKETCH #1 SPIRIT ANIMAL:

DESCRIPTION:

I had a dream that the king was in my room and I think the reason I had this dream was because I kinda wished I had played basketball this year. The guy is representing me in when I play basketball because I

Important Information for Students!!!

If you have more words to write on an Intent Form question than is allowed, you can add the extra words to the Reference PDF. Your Juror can read it there.

If you are part of the Junior VASE Virtual Pilot Event, your Juror will use your Intent Form and Reference PDF to replace your Interview. Make sure your writing explains your artwork process completely!!!

TEACHERS: *Start AND Finish artwork early!!!*

- If you need further explanation and/or training, please contact your Regional Director as soon as possible before your Regional Event. *Attend the Virtual Meetings your Regional Director offers.*
- All parts of the Artwork Entry **MUST** be uploaded & certified by the **FINAL DEADLINE**, 10 days before the Regional Event. This is a *NEW combined deadline for 2026.*

There are **NO FIXES** allowed in VASE.

*Please start VASE projects in the Fall when possible, and direct students to complete uploading in their dashboard by the **STUDENT DATA** deadline (3 days before the teacher's **FINAL DEADLINE**).*

*Questions? Please contact either your Regional Director
or the State Director of VASE for your VASE program level.*

State Director: TEAM Tracey Hall

team@taea.org

State Director: Junior VASE Larry West

jrvase@taea.org

State Director: High School VASE Chris Cooper

hsvase@taea.org