

TIPS & TRICKS

How to Write an Artist Statement

What is an Artist Statement?

An Artist Statement is a brief and general introduction to your work, a body of work, or a specific project. An artist writes an Artist Statement to reveal their thoughts about the creative process, the purpose of the artwork, and the influences on their artwork. Artist Statements provide the artist with an opportunity to communicate with an audience. Put simply: “Your Artist Statement speaks for your art when you are not there to.”

Part 1: **Word Dump**

Think about your artwork. Write single words or short phrases that come to mind. Use words from the list of Vocabulary of Art Terms [here](#).

Part 2: Your **Motivations**

Why do you make art?

What are your hobbies?

Part 3: Your **Influences**

Who/what inspires you?

What do you like about being an artist?

What is challenging about being an artist?

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Part 4: Your **Message**

What message(s) are you trying to tell through your artwork?

Does your artwork tell a story?

What do you want others to say/think/feel about your artwork?

Part 5: Your **Creative Process**

Describe how you made your artwork. How did you begin? How do you know when your artwork is complete?

What is unique about your creative process?

What are your favourite mediums?

Part 6: Your **Analysis**

What did you learn while creating your artwork?

What was most challenging?

What could be improved?

What are your goals for the future as an artist?

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Helpful Tips:

- * Write in first person, present tense: "I am" & "I do" NOT "I was" & "I did"
- * Write as if you were talking to someone about your artwork
- * Write 3 paragraphs and in full sentences (100 words maximum)
- * Include an introduction, body, and conclusion
- * Use your own words and make it personal
- * Keep it short, sweet, and attention-grabbing

Prompts to get you started:

My work explores...

I am inspired by _____ because...

My creative process includes...

I am interested in _____ because...

The colours in my work represent...

When others look at my work, I want them to...

I like creating because...

My work reminds me of...

The materials I use most are _____ because...

The message I want to share through my art is...

Sample Artist Statement:

"My artwork takes a critical view of social, political and cultural issues. Often referencing American history, my work explores the relationships between popular culture and fine art. My work reproduces familiar visual and aural signs, arranging them into new conceptually layered installations. Although there may not always be material similarities between the different projects they are linked through the subject matter. The subject matter of each body of work determines the materials and the forms of the work. Each project often consists of multiple works, in a range of different media, grouped around specific themes and meanings."

