

Writing About Art

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How do I write an Artist Statement?

- *Artist Statements* are a written passage about your work of art that include, but are not limited to:
 - The purpose for creating the work.
 - Your inspiration for the work.
 - What artists, if any, did you analyze and reflect on?
 - What was the piece supposed to look like originally?
 - How did you change or modify your plans?
 - What did you do well or what are you pleased with?
 - What challenges did you encounter and how did you solve them?
 - How did you grow as an artist or person?
 - What did you learn?

- Normally, your work will not turn out the way you planned.
 - IT IS OK TO FAIL! Write about how you could do it better if you had the chance to do the project again. What would you change?
 - Do not simply say, "I like the color blue so I made it blue." Why do you like blue? What colors go well with blue and why? DO YOUR RESEARCH!

- You are talking about yourself in your *Artist Statement*; don't try to please an audience by using big, fancy words. Write in your own words.

- MOST IMPORTANTLY, *Artist Statements* should include specific vocabulary when describing your work and the work of others.
 - Vocabulary from the lesson (charcoal, oil, slab, etc.)
 - Elements of Art and Principles of Design (Line, Texture, Shape, etc.)

- EXPLAIN WHY YOU DID THE THINGS YOU DID

What is Inspiration?

- Inspiration is anything that aided in your desire to create the project, modify the work in a certain way, or encouraged a specific theme.
- You can be inspired by ANYTHING!
- All artists are inspired and every project is a reflection of a specific person, place, or thing. Use the world around you!
- Inspiration can be difficult, try looking at magazines, picture books, contemporary artist websites, etc.

Planning

- Every work of art needs a plan!
- Sketch or write about your ideas! If you don't plan, you WILL NOT be successful.
- Your inspirations and plans go hand in hand. Take pictures of anything that interests you and sketch them as organized thoughts and ideas.

Discussing Growth

- Discussing growth is the same thing as "reflecting."
- WHAT DID YOU LEARN about yourself, your art work, your peers, your environment, your thoughts, your actions, your relationships, etc.?
- If you make artwork and didn't grow at all, then you have been unsuccessful and/or unmotivated.
- You should always be challenging yourself to do better. People don't change the world by sitting back and doing what everybody else is doing.

Vocabulary Examples

Elements of Art

Line: A continuous or implied mark.

Color: A response of vision to light.

Value: Describes the lightness of a color.

Form: Appears or is three-dimensional.

Shape: An enclosed space.

Texture: The surface treatment of an object.

Space: Arrangement of objects in a work.

Principles of Art

Emphasis: Points that pull the viewer's eye.

Rhythm: Organized elements of design.

Movement: The eye's path through a work.

Balance: Equal distribution of visual weight.

Pattern: Organizational repeating of objects.

Contrast: The variations of light and dark.

Variety: Using several elements in a work.

Unity: A sense of completeness.