

Writing a Self-Assessment / Artist's Statement

about one particular piece of your art

What is an artist's statement?

The artist's statement describes who you are as an artist and what your art is about. Artist's statements are used to describe you and your work; to inform viewers. Brag about yourself and your work.

Some general guidelines:

- One page or about three paragraphs is usually plenty.
- Be sure to describe your style and the medium you used.

Planning:

Begin by brainstorming words and phrases. Use complete sentences.

The following prompts are here to help you begin. You may choose to develop other questions:

- Why you have created the work and what is its history?
- Your overall vision-- what are you trying to say in the work?
- What do you like best and least about the finished product?
- Combine the sentences into logical, flowing paragraphs.
- Describe a theme that runs through your work.
- What has influenced your work?
- Describe the medium you used.
- Describe your style.

Putting the artist's statement together:

Paragraph I: Make a clear and concise statement about your artwork and why you created the artwork the way that you did. Support that statement with at least two reasons. This is where you can point out a theme or discuss those experiences that influence your work. Use descriptive words to make your point.

Paragraph II: Describe what inspired you and what you think works well and what you think you could have done better.

Paragraph III. Give the reader/viewer closure. Give a few more hints about your work, what you learned and perhaps what you struggled with.

Sample:

My artwork represents my favorite boots which I wear all the time in the Fall season. I used oil pastels and colored pencils to create this piece. It shows overlapping boots on a golden colored background in a soft blended style.



I used vibrant colors in the background which is my favorite part of the artwork. It reminds me of fall, my favorite season. My inspiration for my artwork was the color of the leaves in early October. My least favorite part is the half of the Ugg boot at the bottom. It was drawn too thin and looks out of place.

When I think of Uggs I think of leaves because Fall is when we start to wear them. If I were to do this again I would change the shading around the shoe because it is not as dark as I would like. I learned shading in different ways by doing this assignment. Nothing surprised me while working on this piece. I took it step by step and thought it out before I began.

Review and Revise:

- Be concise-- Keep your writing simple, clear, and to-the-point.
- Proofread your artist's statement for grammar and spelling.