

# How to write an Artist Statement

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## What your artist's statement is and what it does for you

Your artist's statement is your chance to communicate why you created the kind of art that you did. It should enrich the viewer's experience of your work and give them the tools to dig a little deeper into your process (*how you made it*). Frequently gallery directors, reviewers, **teachers**, and curators will use your statement to understand and evaluate your body of work (*for this project it's just this one piece, but you can be asked to write an artist's statement about all your pieces*). **Your artist's statement is your voice when you are not there.**

## Some basic nuts and bolts

- It's short. The ideal length is 4-8 powerful sentences
- It's simple and direct
- It is written in the first person (i.e. "I," "my," "me")
- It doesn't contain information *about anything other than the work that we can see.*
- It's relevant to the work that is visible

**Getting started** - Just start writing, ramble on without being self-critical. You'll go back to revise and edit later. Here are some questions to get you started.

- Describe the image you created
- Why did you choose to create this particular image?
- What are the key themes and issues of your work? **For this project what is the message of this work? How does it relate to the location you show in your work?**
  - How did you make the work communicate the message? – what techniques, media and processes did you use to enhance the message?
- How would you like viewers to respond to your work? (*How should they feel, what should they hear? Smell? Taste?*)
- Is there something a viewer might not be able to tell about your work from just looking at it? *What hints, prompts, etc will they need to more fully understand the art?*

## Tips

- Keep your language simple & direct. The statement should sound like you are talking, not some professor. However, don't use fluffy words like "pretty, like, really, very, totally" & don't start the whole thing off with "now I'm going to tell you about my art."
- Read it out loud, everyone at the table should read theirs out loud- peer critique each other on word choice, repeated words, how fluid it sounds, & how much sense it makes
- Typos and grammatical errors make a very poor impression