

Artist Statement For Concentration

Requires Typed Statement

Submit Microsoft Word Document File or PDF File

Turn in Printed version.

(50 points)

Summary of How To Write An Artist Statement

There is no one set formula to write an artist statement. The key to remember is that you are trying to communicate some aspect of you and your work to the audience that gives them information not easily and obviously noticeable in the work itself.

In short, you are trying to balance the following:

1. A brief explanation of what you have done.
2. A brief explanation of why you did it.
3. Something else that engages or creates interest to the audience.

Key Points:

- Themes and subject matter
- Why you did it?
- Your personal interest
- Expectations from your audience
- How it is different from previous work
- Describe your work!

Optional Information:

- How your work relates to other artists
- Put your work into context
- Political or social issues related to your work
- Artists whom influenced you
- Other resources whom influenced you.
- Interesting story?

Some Helpful Considerations:

- Have your artist statement focus on the work that the audience is seeing at the time. If you are talking about several bodies of work, then mention how those works differ or relate.
- Think of an artist statement as a “behind the scenes” look at your work. Give a little background information or personal anecdotes.
- If you are using a particular process for a specific reason, then tell us why.
- If you are using an obscure or unusual process, gives us a brief statement on how the process works. Don’t give us a workshop.

- Don't mention too many technical specifics. For example, I wouldn't mention for a photograph: the lens, film, camera, or equipment used unless it fits the above statement.
- Personalize the artist statement. Make it sound like you, the artist talking to us, not some critic or curator. You can use "I".
- Keep language simple. If I have to use a dictionary to read your statement, I probably won't bother reading your statement.
- Read your statement out loud several times and hear how it sounds. Does it have a good "flow"....or a good progression of information and content?
- Have other people read your artist statement and give you feedback.

Additional Considerations for Non-Visual Artists:

- Write to the standards of your field. This means that if you are an architect, then research what is expected of a statement in architecture. If you are a musician, research topics that deal with sound and sound production. If you are an art historian, look at the standards of writing in your field.

Approaches:

1. Write in first person.
2. Write in third person as if you were interviewed.
3. Straight Forward or Personalized Writing style?

Personal Preferences on Artist Statements:

In regard to fine art, I believe that the artist statement should give insight to the artist, perhaps a bit of their personality, or outlook on life. I don't think an artist statement should sound highly scientific or medically sterile. Having said this, think about your audience. If you are writing for commercial work, you may want to be simple and direct. If you are writing for an art gallery, you may want to make the statement not sound so dry. Still, avoid "curator speak". This means don't misuse the language or make up phrases that are not common knowledge in the subject that you are discussing.

I personally think in regard to Art, artists should focus a lot on ideas and the stories behind their work. Personally, I love stories. If you have a good story behind your work, find a way to include it or at least a segment of the story. You might try a poetic twist or creating a poetic flow through the writing. This makes the writing more enjoyable to read (if you ask me), but at the same time, keep it easily understandable. Remember, you are focusing on communication.

Questions for Artist Statements:

Describing your work:

1. What medium do you use?
2. Why do you like that medium?
3. Do you use color?
4. What colors do you use?
5. Is there a reason for the color you use?
6. Do you apply color a certain way?
7. What techniques do you use?
8. Do you notice or think about formal elements in your work such as composition, form, space, line, contrast, color combinations, value, etc.?

Describing your subject matter:

1. Do you have similar imagery that appears in your work?
2. Do you have similar subject matter that appears frequently in your work?
3. If yes, what are the subject and images that appear frequently?
4. How do you pick your subject or theme?
5. Do you use images as symbols for other things?
6. Do you pick subjects that represent a feeling or mood?
7. Does your work have a story or narrative?

Describing your influences?

1. Do you have favorite artists?
2. Who are they?
3. Describe art that you are interested in?
4. What makes a good work of art to you?
5. Are you inspired by music, other creative activities, friends, family, etc?
6. An interesting events that have inspired you in any way?

How do you approach art work?

If you could make anything you want, what would it be?

What would you like to do that you haven't done yet?