

Artist Statement Flow Chart

Use this chart to help you construct an artist statement about your artwork.

Start Here

1 Describe your artwork.

Some questions to consider: What does your artwork look like? What is the subject matter? What is the title of your work? What elements or principles are most obvious in your work?

Some questions to consider: What media is your artwork made from? What tools, techniques or processes did you use to create your artwork?

2 How did you create your art?

3 What is the *big idea* behind your artwork?

Some questions to consider: What or who inspired your artwork? Does your work express a personal or social issue? What emotions did you try to show in your artwork?

Some questions to consider: What are your goals as an artist? Did this piece help you reach your goals? Why or why not?

4 What were your goals for this artwork?

5 What are your overall *thoughts* of your artwork?

Some questions to consider: What did you learn in creating this artwork? Is the final piece what you imagined? How so? How will this piece influence your future artworks?

Way to go! You just wrote a reflective artist statement.
Please edit your statement for spelling and grammar.
Ask a friend to read it through and share their thoughts on your artist statement.

1. To Get your Brain Going...

- List individual words or short phrases that come to mind when asked these questions:
 - What is your favorite art material? Why?
 - How would you describe your artwork in an e-mail?
 - Besides the work of other artists, what influences your artwork?
 - What do you like best about being an artist?
 - Why do you make art?
 - What is most challenging about being an artist?
 - How do you begin a piece of artwork?
 - What does it mean when you say a piece of artwork "turned out really well"?
 - What do you want others to feel or think when they see your artwork?

2. Artist's Statement Frameworks:

- These frameworks will help you mold the words and thoughts from above into document form. Each paragraph should have 3 to 5 sentences. Most artists' statements are one page. Write in first person present tense- "I am" NOT "I was", "I do" NOT "I did".
 - **Paragraph 1-** Why do you do the work you do? Support your statement telling the reader more about your goals and aspirations.
 - **Paragraph 2-** Tell the reader how you make decisions before, during, and after the artwork is created. How and why do you select materials, techniques and themes? Keep it simple and BE SPECIFIC.
 - **Paragraph 3-** Tell the reader a little more about your current work. How did this work grow out of prior artwork or life experiences? What are you exploring, attempting or challenging by doing this work?

3. Helpful Hints:

- If you have trouble writing about yourself, write about an artist you admire. Then write about yourself from that point of view.
- Begin writing as if you were talking to someone about your art
- Have a friend ask you questions about your artwork. Take notes as you answer the questions
- Have someone who is not familiar with your artwork read your statement and ask you questions
- Create a statement that makes the reader want to look at and know more about your artwork
- Your statement should be more than just a description of your art and/or art process
- Read your statement aloud as you edit
- Have a classmate, the art teacher, another teacher, the janitor, etc. read your artist's statement while looking at your artwork