

THE COMMON APP

A user guide to Artist Statements

An artist statement is piece of writing that helps the audience access or understand your artistic work. It is written in the first person, while artist bios are written in the third person. Both represent you as an artist, and may include themes, sources, ideas, and materials used in your current practice.

Writing an artist statement can be done in many ways. Some people make lists of words related to their practice, others have a trusted friend interview them about their creative process, still others begin with a thesis statement or theory behind what they are trying to accomplish with their work.

While there is no right or wrong way to capture your work as an artist in words, it can be helpful to consider the following prompts:

- Describe your work or your interests as a creator.
- What is your process for creating new work?
- Do you practice a particular tradition or genre in your artistic discipline(s)?
- Is your work or practice rooted in a particular folk or traditional arts practice?
- What is your work responding to?
- How does your work reflect your point of view?
- Do you have an idea of what you'd like an audience to take away from your work?

If you would like general guidance on developing an artist statement, you may find this piece from The Creative Independent written by Sarah Hotchkiss to be helpful:

<https://thecreativeindependent.com/guides/how-to-write-an-artist-statement/>