

Guide to Writing Your Artist Statement

Your artist statement is a chance to share your unique story, passion, and vision with the Scholarship Selection Committee. It helps them understand why your chosen art discipline is important to you and how the scholarship opportunity will support your growth. Below are key tips and guidelines to help you craft a compelling artist statement:

What to Include in Your Artist Statement

1. Your Passion for Your Art

- What excites you most about what you create?
- Describe the themes, skills, or concepts in the work samples you've included with your application. For example, do you explore identity, social issues, or personal experiences in your art?
- Highlight the part of your art-making process that brings you joy or fulfillment.

2. Your Goals as an Artist

- What does becoming an established artist in your discipline mean to you?
- Share your vision for your future. For example, do you hope to inspire others, perform on major stages, or exhibit your work in renowned galleries?

3. Why This Opportunity Matters

- Explain why you chose this particular program, school, teacher, or mentor.
- What makes this opportunity the right fit for you? Mention specific aspects of the program or individual that inspire you.

4. How This Scholarship Will Help You

- Share what you hope to achieve through this opportunity.
 - How will it help you develop your skills, explore new ideas, or grow as an artist?
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Tips for Writing a Strong Artist Statement

- **Write in the First Person**
Use “I” or “me” to make your statement personal and engaging. Speak from the heart about your journey and aspirations.
 - **Be Clear and Concise**
Avoid overly complex language. Aim for a statement that is straightforward, authentic, and easy to read.
 - **Edit and Proofread**
 - Write your statement in a separate document first. This makes it easier to review and refine.
 - Use a spell-check tool to catch errors.
 - Ask a trusted friend, teacher, or mentor to read your statement and provide feedback.
 - **Focus on Your Unique Voice**
The Committee wants to know *your* story. Avoid generic statements and focus on what makes your perspective and goals unique.
 - **Limit Length**
Most artist statements are about 250–500 words. Be mindful of the word count specified in the application instructions.
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Example Structure for Your Artist Statement

1. Introduction

Start with a personal story or an explanation of why you are passionate about your art discipline.

Example:

“From the moment I picked up my first paintbrush at age seven, I realized I had found a way to express emotions I couldn’t put into words. Creating art has always been my way of exploring the world around me and connecting with others.”

2. Current Focus and Work

Talk about the themes or skills you are currently exploring in your work.

Example:

“My work explores themes of cultural identity and belonging, using bold colors and layered textures to reflect the complexity of my experiences as part of the African diaspora.”

3. Goals and Aspirations

Share what becoming an established artist means to you and how this opportunity fits into your journey.

Example:

“Becoming an established artist in my field means using my voice to inspire and empower others. This program will give me the technical skills and mentorship I need to elevate my work and share it with a wider audience.”

4. Why This Opportunity Matters

Explain why you chose this program, teacher, or mentor and what you hope to gain from the experience.

Example:

“I have chosen to study with [Mentor’s Name] because of their innovative approach to storytelling, which I deeply admire. I am excited to learn how to bring my own stories to life through their guidance.”

5. Conclusion

End with a heartfelt statement about your excitement for the opportunity and your commitment to your art.

Example:

“I am thrilled at the chance to pursue this opportunity and take my artistic practice to the next level. I am eager to learn, grow, and continue sharing my work with the world.”

By following these steps and tips, you’ll be able to write a strong and personal artist statement that showcases your passion, creativity, and vision for the future. Take your time, revise carefully, and let your authentic voice shine through!