**Guidelines for Writing an Artist’s Statement**

After you create a work of art, it is important to include a written statement about the artwork. This statement helps the viewer understand the piece of art, plus it helps you as the artist think about what inspired you to create it. It is a reflection of what it is, how you made it, why you made it, and what it means. **Your artist’s statement should be a one-page (or more) reflection consisting of 3-4 paragraphs that describe it, analyze it, interprets it, and evaluates it.**  **Use complete sentences and correct punctuation and capitalization. Use 12 point font in Times New Roman, and 1.5 spacing.**

1. **DESCRIBE it…..What do I see?**

* What type of artwork is it?
* What is the subject—what do you see in the foreground, middle ground, and background?
* How can you describe lines in the picture? Shapes? Colors? What does the artwork show?
* What observations can you make about it?
* How would you describe this painting/drawing to someone who cannot see it?
* How would you describe the people in this painting/drawing?
* How would you describe the place depicted in the painting/drawing?

1. **ANALYZE it…..How is it organized? What elements and principles are used?**

* Which objects seem closer to you? Further away?
* What can you tell me about the lines or shapes in the artwork?
* What can you tell me about the colors in the artwork?
* What can you tell me about the person/people in the artwork?
* What can you tell about how the person lived? How did you arrive at that idea?
* What is the most important part of the piece in your opinion?

1. **INTERPRET it…..What message does the artwork communicate to the viewer? Tell the meaning or the mood of the work.**

* What title would you give this work? What made you decide on that title?
* What other titles could you give it?
* What do you think is happening? What else could be happening?
* What sounds would this painting make, if it could?
* What do you think is going on in the picture? How did you arrive at that idea?
* What do you think it is about? How did you arrive at that idea?
* Pretend you are inside this painting. What does it feel like?
* What do you think this (object) was used for? Why?
* Why do you suppose the artist made this painting? Why do you think that?
* What would it be like to live in this painting/drawing?

1. **EVALUATE it….Judge it! Is this a successful piece in your opinion? Why? Why not? You determine the degree of artistic merit. Personal opinion and subjective judgement (do you like it or not, and are the elements and principles represented/demonstrated well?)**

* What does the artwork remind you of?
* What things do you recognize in the piece? What seems new to you?
* \*\*\*What do you think is good about this artwork (a strength)? What could be improved upon (a weakness)? **\*\*\*This one is required.**
* Why do you think other people should see this work of art?
* What do you think other people would say about this work? Why do you think that?
* How is this like any other artwork you have seen? What are some important similarities? Differences?
* How is the picture different from real life? How is it like real life?
* What interests you most about the piece of art?
* What do you think people will remember about this work? Why?