

Senior Artist Statement Guidelines:

At first you should just write and write, fully exploring all of these options. You can cut it down to one page later.

You can start with a quote by an artist, or critic, or philosopher, or related writer. Just be sure it closely relates to your work, your approach, etc. You might find an interesting comment by someone on Art 21 or other current works or from a Psychology/English/Philosophy/etc. class that you've taken at some point.

Give a **brief overview introduction** to the project--2-3 sentence overview. (like a thesis statement)

Discuss aspects of your **personal history and your artistic development** and how they may have contributed to the present work. (EVENTUALLY VERY SHORT)

Pick **3-5 artists** to list who have provided to be an influence on you in the past, and go into some detail about what *you love about them* for just a couple of them. You should also include **other cultural sources** in this section: graphic novels, fashion, animation, film, novels, poetry, etc.

THIS IS THE BIGGEST SECTION:

Then move to **formal and thematic specifics** of the work in your show. Pick the most interesting 3 aspects in each of these categories: such as, the irony of making art about war, the struggle to depict such psychological subtleties as 'self-image', how light affects spirituality and ritual, how the formal rigor of building blocks can illuminate conditions of the mind, humor, discipline, etc. Then discuss the 3 biggest formal and/or material choices you made. Start simple: Why are these paintings? Why photographs? Why sculptures, etc? Then move to more specific choices within the work. (Be prepared to explain these choices in your oral exam)

Finish with a brief discussion of **what you want your audience to take away** from the work. Do you want their lives to be richer for having seen your show? Don't be shy here! And don't be afraid of speaking to the simplest of issues as well as to the most global! (ie. the love of miniaturist painting and murky color, the haunting beauty of a profile, etc to sweeping statements about the nature of love in the modern world, the role of family, the fact of war, etc.)

Have some friends read it over and give you feedback. ***And practice reading it aloud.***

In conjunction with Read Baldwin...