

ARTIST STATEMENT GUIDE

An artist statement tells the story of your artwork—it helps your audience understand the meaning behind what you made and how you made it. Think of it like the card you'd see next to a sculpture in a museum. Let's write one for your ceramic mask!

PART 1: Describe Your Artwork (The What)

What is the title? What does your mask look like? What colors, textures, or shapes stand out? What principles of art or elements of design are most prominent?

PART 2: The Big Idea (The Why)

What inspired your design? What does it represent? What are the metaphors or symbols you use to create meanings, to demonstrate parts of yourself or your emotions?

PART 3: How You Made It (The How)

How did you build and finish your mask? What materials and tools did you use? What techniques did you try (e.g. coiling, slab building, carving)? Did you run into any challenges?

PART 4: Your Goals (The Intention)

What did you hope to express or accomplish through your art? What did you want the viewer to feel or think? Did you try to show a side of yourself others don't see? Were you trying something new artistically?

PART 5: Reflect (The So What)

Now that it's finished, how do you feel about your mask? Did the final piece turn out how you imagined? What did you learn while making it? How might this influence your future art?

Example:

"This mask has jagged edges and two sides—one bright yellow and smooth, one dark blue with rough texture. It shows my mood swings and how I hide parts of myself. I made the eyes very small because I'm shy and don't like to be watched. The horns show my inner power. I used slabs to build the face shape, then carved into it for texture. My goal was to be brave and show my anxiety in a creative way. I'm proud of how it turned out. I learned I can use abstract shapes to show how I feel."

Adapted from <https://theartofeducation.edu/>