

STUDENT LEARNING STATEMENT INFORMATION

Why is a learning statement required?

At its most elemental level, creating art is about communication. In order to expand this communication process between artist and audience, each student entering the Elementary and Middle School State Shows and the MYAF Visual Arts Exhibit is required to submit an artist statement for inclusion in the show. This was done with encouragement from the MAEA Executive Board. Not including a learning statement will cause work to be rejected.

The artist statement is meant to encourage reflection on the part of the student and to promote writing across the curriculum. It is also consistent with professional art exhibit practice. Students at all levels can write meaningful commentary on their artwork. However, at the elementary level, a teacher written statement is acceptable. One way to approach the learning statement is to have students complete an open-ended prompt or stem thought, followed by a “because” statement that takes them to a higher level of thinking.

Some possible writing prompts:

“The most important thing that I learned while doing this artwork is...”

“The message I am trying to convey in making this art is...”

“When people that view my art, I hope that they notice...”

“This work allowed me to explore...”

High school learning statement requirements:

- Should be written by the student and reviewed by the art teacher.
- Must be word processed or typed; black ink in box at bottom of entry form.
- Statement must be scannable using optical recognition software (OCR).
- Choose a simple font such as: Times Roman, Helvetica, Chicago or Arial.
- Should be brief (a short paragraph), concise, and well written.

Elementary and middle school learning statements

- May be written by the teacher to reflect the lesson and state benchmarks
- Must be word processed –the label you send is the label displayed !!!!!
- Should be brief (a very short paragraph)
- MUST BE TYPED in the boxed area at bottom of entry form.

CRITERIA FOR MAEA STATE ENTRIES

Pieces submitted which have met the guidelines and are among the top pieces entered from across the State, will be selected by qualified judges with the following criteria:

- Creativity demonstrated (originality of idea or process, risk-taking, unusual and diverse solution to the problem)
- Quality craftsmanship (in use of tools, materials, and techniques, as well as presentation-matting/mounting)
- A clear relationship between the learning/artist statement and the artwork
- The overall visual impact of the artwork

Judges will also strive to include representation from:

- Each region
- Variety of media, techniques
- Gender and grade level