

The Photography Statement - “About Me” (25 marks)
TAKE AN INTERESTING PHOTO OF YOURSELF TAKING A PHOTO!
Or

Use your best photograph to the right of your “About Me” statement.

“How can I summarize in a few words what my photography is all about?”

An artist statement establishes a tone, sets the context for understanding you and your photography work, and offers insight into your abilities and motivations.

Questions to consider?

What equipment did you use?

What settings do you prefer?

Do you like a particular brand of camera or lens?

Do you like particular lighting?

What is your preferred genre of photography?

What do you hope to shoot in the future (Dream list)?

Will you travel to see something in particular?

Is there a particular photographer whom you admire? Are you influenced by anyone in particular? A parent, grandparent, photographer?

Objective: You will write a photographer’s statement to accompany your work for inclusion in your portfolio and presentation. This statement should be brief and help your audience connect you to your work. There is no formula, so create a statement that represents you!

Do’s:

- Tone should be expressive of your work, i.e. it could be reserved, theoretical, academic, analytic, humorous, antagonistic, or political, as long as it provides an accurate reflection of your work.
- Statement should relate to the visuals
- Be simple, concise, clear, and direct – statement should be no longer than one page
- Do a spell check and review for grammatical errors
- Refer to yourself in the first person, not “the artist”
- Talk about the media if there is potential for confusion

Don’ts:

- Avoid “artspeak” or “techspeak” and convoluted lingo
- Do not attempt to impress anyone with statements that do not ring true with the work
- Do not describe what is visible (or, keep it minimal)
- Do not outline your entire history and upbringing, unless your artwork is autobiographical or it has a direct relationship with your work, and if so, be brief
- Don’t tell the reader how they will feel, change their outlook on life or whether or not people like your work
- Avoid self-indulgence

Check out some other do's and don'ts: <http://artiststatement.com/>

Example:

My work explores relationships between.....

My work is diverse. It includes....

My work has been influenced by.....

The majority of my work is focussed on..... (portraiture, landscapes, macro.....)

I was influenced by _____, when I saw his/her work, because....

Criteria for a good statement:

Communicates for proper audiences (uses related terminology)

Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of their own work

Communicates theme/genre

Communicates other significant, supporting information

Organizes information

Clear-language conventions

Personalizes this page with photo, quotation, style of format, etc.