

An artist statement is an important piece of an artist's overall work. It's the statement that explains the *intent* of the artist and his/her work. For most of the assignments in the class you will be required to write a statement. This is not something that needs to be extremely long, but the length should be enough that explains what your idea is: Here's a short example:

When you're writing the statement there are things to keep in mind. The Minnesota State High School League has a set requirement of what information you should be talking about in your statement as well as its length. Some of the main points of this deal with the message of your work. You should write a clear and insightful analysis of your message. People should easily understand what it is you're trying to say. This is also the inspiration of the *WHY* in your work. Was it a question? Are you basing this from an event? *WHY* did you make this piece?! This artwork was meant to be done by **YOU** and is personal. We know you did it, you own it and it's no longer part of the class. When scoring the judges will be looking SPECIFICALLY for the following:

#### Expressive Qualities: Intention

- What was your *intention* in the making of the work in terms of what you wanted to communicate to the viewer or to yourself?

#### Composition: Content and Design Concept

- What is being seen in the work's *content*? Be as detailed and specific as you can in describing what you have included in the image.
- Explain your incorporation of the art elements and principles as they relate to the *design concept* of the work.

#### Process and Problem Solving: Personal Decision Making and Process/ Technique/Procedure

- What *personal decision-making* did you engage in when making choices about what to include in the art form / subject matter? This might also reflect decisions having to deal with physical conditions that needed to be considered due to the nature of the work.
- What *process/technique/procedure* did you use in the creation of your work? Discuss steps, materials and tools that you employed.

#### Discovery

- What did you become aware of while creating the object or after its completion, including connections to other experiences, art history, and the source(s) of your exploration as a part of the *discovery* process?

One method that seems to work well for this sort of thing is the **B.O.L.T.** method. This helps you simplify what it is that you need to be talking about and keep it organized. The four main components of **BOLT** are:

- **B**reak apart the question, underline key words
- **O**ffer your response in the form of a topic sentence
- **L**ist your support in complete sentences
- **T**ie together with a clincher at the end



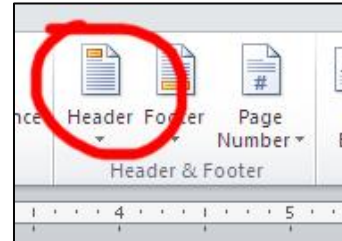
Thomas Barbey

"Absolute

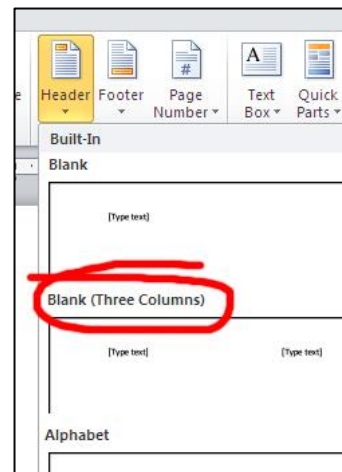
*This piece is about taking chances in your life and believing in yourself. If you don't take that leap, you'll never know what lies ahead of you. It's about moving ahead and believing that you can conquer anything. The diver is leaping off the building, believing that she is good enough and knowing that she will land on her*

***Start Writing your Statement!***

- 1) Open up **Microsoft WORD**
- 2) Once the program is open the first thing you need to do is add a **HEADER** to your document:
  - a. Click on **INSERT** at the top of your screen
  - b. Look for **HEADER**. Click that!



- 3) Once **HEADER** is clicked a list of options will appear.  
You need to select the one marked **BLANK (THREE COLUMNS)**
- 4) What you need to list in each of the blanks are:
  - a. Your name
  - b. Title of the Artwork
  - c. What class this is for

A screenshot of a Microsoft Word document template. The header section is divided into three columns with the labels 'Your Name', 'Title of your Work', and 'Which Class are you in?'. Below the header is a large text area for the statement. A small text box at the bottom of the statement area reads: 'This is where you write your statement. Keep in mind that this is a complete paragraph that should include a topic sentence and then sentences to support your work. Please use the B.O.L.T. method to write your paragraph. PLEASE remember that your statement must be 150 – 160 words in length!'

- 5) Once the document is set up properly you can begin writing your statement. Please remember that it needs to be between 150 – 160 words! No more, no less. Keep the size of the font at 12. One thing I always recommend is a form of Free Writing. Just start typing! Don't worry about spelling, grammar, or punctuation. Once it's all written then you can organize and change that stuff to be correct.
- 6) Finally, check the word count at the bottom of your screen in the left corner. If you're there....great! It may be a good idea to have a friend, or classmate read your statement to double check anything you might have missed.
- 7) **TURN IT IN!! You're DONE!!**