**Assignment for September 10, 2015**

**Writing an Artist's Statement**

**First and foremost… YOU ARE an ARTIST!** You will be writing a rough draft in your sketchbook in the PLANNING section! Follow the steps below to assist you in writing your rough draft. The rough draft MUST be complete by Friday when you come to class! If you make it to the final copy you can write it in the front of your sketchbook on 1st page…

1. To get your brain going… List individual words or short phrases that come to mind when asked these questions:

* What is YOUR definition of art?
* What is your favorite art material? Why?
* How would you describe your artwork in an e-mail?
* Besides the work of other artists, what influences your artwork?
  + - Think about the assignments you have been given…
    - Think about your interests and how you have been encouraged to include these in your art.
* What do you like best about being an artist?
* Why do (people) you make art? NOT Because you are in art class!
* What is most challenging about being an artist?
* How do you begin a piece of artwork?
* What does it mean when you say a piece of artwork "turned out really well"?
* What do you want others to feel or think when they see your artwork?

2. Artist’s Statement Frameworks: These frameworks will help you mold the words and thoughts from above into document form. Each paragraph should have 3 to 5 sentences. Most artists’ statements are one page. Write in first person present tense- "I am" NOT "I was", "I do" NOT "I did".

Paragraph 1- Why do you do the work you do? Support your statement telling the reader more about your goals and aspirations.

Paragraph 2- Tell the reader how you make decisions before, during, and after the artwork is created. How and why do you select materials, techniques and themes? Keep it simple and BE SPECIFIC.

Paragraph 3- Tell the reader a little more about your current work. How did this work grow out of prior artwork or life experiences? What are you exploring, attempting or challenging by doing this work?

 See the back of this instruction sheet for Helpful Hints:

Helpful Hints:

* If you have trouble writing about yourself, write about an artist you admire. Then write about yourself from that point of view.
* Begin writing as if you were talking to someone about your art
* Have a friend ask you questions about your artwork. Take notes as you answer the questions
* Have someone who is not familiar with your artwork read your statement and ask you questions
* Create a statement that makes the reader want to look at and know more about your artwork
* Your statement should be more than just a description of your art and/or art process
* Read your statement aloud as you edit
* Have a classmate, the art teacher, another teacher, the janitor, etc. read your artist’s statement while looking at your artwork

**Note:** This framework was inspired by several models of writing an artist’s statement with additional input from university and high school art teachers.