

Writing the Project Statement

What is a project statement?

A project statement clarifies what you intend to make and why. While the artist statement serves as a bridge, the project statement is more like a blueprint. It's meant to offer a clear snapshot of your project to clarify your intentions and offer a frame within which you can envision your work. It also offers specifics on various elements of your work to help you gain clarity and convey your project scope to others.

What is it used for?

First and foremost, your project statement is for you. Once you clarify what you wish to create, you will find it easier to proceed with the project. A project statement also clarifies your intentions for others—your professors, peers, and others who may be interested in your work. As you cast your net beyond Montserrat, you will often be asked to include project statements as you prepare applications for residencies and fellowships, graduate school, grant funding, gallery representation, and exhibitions; each institution will have specific guidelines—always pay attention to these.

What should you include?

Much like the artist statement, the project statement expresses the who, what, where, why, how, and when of your work—not necessarily in this order.

- **Who** are you as an artist? What makes you the right person to create this work?
- **What** are you going to create? Be specific here: discuss materials, mediums, collaborators (if relevant), dimensions, scope, and any other elements that help define the work in concrete terms.
- **Where** will the project be made, exhibited, performed, etc.?
- **Why** is this project important to you, and to those who might view it? Why are you creating it now?
- **How** are you going to carry out this project? In other words, what is the feasibility of what you plan to create? What resources do you need? How will you inform others about the work? (Defining these things will help you manage your expectations about your project and what is realistic to create.)
- **When** will the work be completed? In other words, how long will it take? Do you have a timeline for its execution?

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What tone should you use?

As with your artist statement, above all, be authentic, enthusiastic, and clear about your project. Use **direct, specific, and concrete** language, and remember to proofread your writing carefully.

How long should it be?

Your project statement will vary in length depending on the scope of the project. On the other hand, specific institutions and professors might have word-count (or character-count) requirements. Remember that it takes longer to write something shorter, so give yourself plenty of time to revise and polish your draft.

Before you submit...

Make sure you proofread your draft carefully and have someone who is objective read it over as well. We often miss things in our own writing because we are so close to it. It's also helpful to sleep on it and re-read it with fresh eyes, as with any writing. As always, consider making an appointment with the Writing Studio at any point in the process!