

Writing Your Artist's Statement

Student Name: _____

Instructions

Write a three-paragraph statement about your work of art integrating the three methods of analysis: *description*, *reflection*, and *formal analysis*.

Guidelines for writing

- The artist's statement should be at least three paragraphs in length (one paragraph for each analytic method).
- Follow an organized structure and answer the questions in complete sentences.
- Be aware of transitions between sentences to unify important ideas.
- Use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Paragraph 1: Description

Describe specific details in your image using complete sentences. Remember to start by identifying the subject of the painting. If you were writing about the Dorothea Lange image, you might begin, "In this image, a woman sits with her face resting in her hand..."

Paragraph 2: Reflection

Read the questions below. Pick two or three questions and respond in complete sentences. Use the answers to reflect on the emotional meaning of your image.

- Why did you choose this picture to represent your work?
- When you took this photograph, what first caught your eye?
- Where were you when you took this picture?
- What were you doing when you took this picture?
- What time of day was it?
- What were you thinking when you took this picture?
- What ideas or feelings were you trying to capture in this image?
- Do you think you were able to capture these ideas or feelings?
- What do you think about now when you look at this image?
- How would you like the viewer to respond when they look at this image?
- How did you expect this image to look? What, if anything, looks different than what you expected? What surprised you about this image?

Paragraph 3: Formal Analysis

For this section of your artist's statement, refer to the handout on formal analysis and then answer the questions below. Use the answers to analyze your image formally.

- How did you use the principles of design in your work?
- Which principles of design are most visible in your work?
- How do these principles contribute to the meaning of your work?