Philosophy Statement

In my art classroom, students experience the integration of visual, spatial, aural, textual, and social learning. My classroom is a welcoming environment that embraces new technology, interdisciplinary lessons, culture, and diversity to ensure students feel comfortable and cultivate empathy for their peers and others. My students develop the cognitive and sensory skills needed to prepare for their futures in the global workforce and to see and understand the connections art has to their everyday lives. In my classroom, art is a powerful means of communication that requires critical thinking, creative expression, cultural and historical understanding, critical visual analysis, and awareness of aesthetics.

My classroom is a welcoming environment for *all* students. Differentiated instruction and modifications are seamlessly integrated into lesson plans for English Language Learners and students with special needs. As an LGBTQIA ally, I want to ensure that my classroom is a safe space where students feel supported. I try to be a role model for my students by readily listening to their concerns, offering guidance, and showing empathy.   
I challenge my students to excel but also guide them to the understanding that our experiences help us grow. I have high expectations of my students and know they are capable of amazing work.

Including diverse cultures and perspectives through the study of art and art history is a priority in my classroom. Students learn about the art history of the entire world, not primarily focused on western civilization. Through the analysis and exploration of Visual Culture, attention is given to gendered and racial inequality in modern art and society. In my classroom, students have authentic experiences that are relevant to their lives and futures, therefore my assessment strategies are thoughtfully constructed and carefully integrated into class lessons to best support student learning objectives.

In conclusion, I prepare my students for their futures by providing an authentic learning experience that includes new technology, interdisciplinary lessons, culture, and diversity. By encouraging physical, mental, and social learning my students develop a greater understanding and empathy of the world around them. Art is a powerful means of communication that should be accessible to all.