"Thinking of social concerns or injustice, one can imagine ways in which the arts can provide a vehicle for discussion, or presentation of beliefs and concerns. The additional piece in this process is the manifesto. Manifestos are intense public statements of belief and calls to action...Artists who are engaged in society have historically worked on behalf of society through their art. Three basic questions can be asked, and the answers become the basis of an artist's manifesto:

What does society expect of the artist?

What does the artist expect of society?

How can the artist make clear the purpose of the work, for the sake of society?

Through a manifesto, the artist takes a political stance as well as an artistic stance, and can bring the cause to a wider audience....In society, there are numerous situations that strain our communities and relationships. How could the arts be employed to help these situations, bringing people together to address...Manifestos are passionate statements of belief, not data-driven documents...Manifestos by definition are persuasive...bordering on propaganda...."


Create a powerful original manifesto for yourself as an artist, for an artistic group, or for an artistic movement for whom you are speaking as a public voice.

If you search “artistic manifesto” or “art manifesto” in Google Images you can find dozens of examples of such manifestos. Here are a couple in film form:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4AG2NmquQ4
https://ubalt-my.sharepoint.com/personal/id31af27_ubalt_edu/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?guestaccesstoken=Cs0yRHo6iXSyX6gqvEkIQRK5WPDA0473UEfqYhv1f0%3d&docid=2_17ac20a0df90c47a09131b36532c06f6d&rev=1

The following websites can help you conceptualize the history of artistic manifestos into which yours will fit:

https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/article/ten-game-changing-manifestos
https://www.pencilkings.com/how-to-write-an-artistic-manifesto/
https://goinswriter.com/artist/

Most manifestos try not only to capture the artistic goals of an individual or movement but also to situate those goals in the larger context of a political and social covenant with the public in which this art will bring about positive change. You may choose to declare what you think the social priorities should be for a particular artist or art form or you may approach it from the other direction and state what you think the artistic priorities should be for society, or for a segment of society like an ethnic group or a gender or a political faction. Include with
or in your manifesto a work of art that exemplifies your vision and a narrative that explains why this particular work of art is a perfect illustration of the manifesto.

In thinking about your manifesto, here are some questions you might want to ask yourself:

- What is it about the current state of society that has given rise to this particular concern?
- What is the identity of the community that you are trying to reach with your manifesto?
- What skills or knowledge or passion do you possess that you can commit to serving society through the arts?
- How are you proposing to bring about positive social change through the arts?
- What might be the specific calls to action that your manifesto will put forward?
- How do you expect the community that you are trying to reach to respond to your manifesto?
- What is the best way to reach your intended audience—print? performance? film or video? the internet? broadcasting? Your manifesto will be most effective if you select the perfect medium.
- What kind of artwork will best illustrate the message of your manifesto?
- What civic or political mechanism could be employed to help sustain any change that might be brought about through political activism inspired by your manifesto?

Surprise and delight me!
Post your manifesto in this Forum so the rest of the class can enjoy it.