

## Guidelines for College Portfolio Interviews

### The Portfolio

Select your best work (min. 10, max. 20); don't include EVERYTHING; do include your most recent work, unless an older piece is truly exceptional. And remember, do not include any work copied from a magazine or photo. Work that uses a reference is fine, as long as the photo was taken by the student, or a friend or family member with permission. It is important to include your sketchbook/idea book/art journal to demonstrate the development of a personal voice and independent ideas. Flag important pages with post-its.

The presentation of the work should show good craftsmanship. Whenever possible, mount or matt works. I have read otherwise. Just as long as the pieces are not dog-eared or flimsy, they do not need to be mounted. Any work created in a material that smudges (i.e. charcoal and pastel and pencil) should have a protective sheet placed over it and hinged with tape. Cheap hairspray is a great substitution for spray fix.

If you are applying to a specific program, i.e. architecture or photography, include works that demonstrate your strengths in these areas.

If applying to a general art program, include work of a variety of size (particularly large scale= larger than 18"x24"), medium, subject matter and style. Document 3-D work and work that is too large to comfortably fit in your portfolio case with color printouts of digital pictures. Keep prints in clear protector sheets in a binder.

Use the following table of information as a starting point:

<b>Medium</b>	<b>Subject Matter</b>	<b>Style</b>
Pencil	Portrait/self-portrait	Realism
Pen (black felt tip)	Figure drawing	Observation
Colored pencil	Landscape	Non Objective
Paint (Water color, tempera, acrylic)	Still-life	Social Commentary
Charcoal	Social Commentary	Surrealistic
Pastel	Spatial Illusion	Imaginative
Collage/mixed		Expressive

media/assemblage		
Marker, paint markers		Abstract
Computer Graphics		
Photography		
3-dimensional		

### The Interview

You are your own best advocate. Don't be afraid to talk about your strengths and be proud of your work.

Be prepared to answer questions about your work. Your answers should be as descriptive as possible, using art vocabulary and art historical references whenever possible.

Present your work in a way that appears organized and that makes it easy for the interviewer to flip through your work.

-When describing the objective of a piece or your choices, do not suggest that your decisions were made by your art teacher. Talk about each piece as if it were an independent project.

-Try to have a story or a who, what, why, when, how for each piece. Reinforce the personal nature of your inspiration to reinforce your "voice". Be sure not to share too much overly personal information.

-When attending a portfolio day, have a plan. Know what schools will be there and research them. Have questions ready for the college reps.. Select 3 schools that you are interested in attending and 3 that you are curious about.

-Check-out the competition. Look at what other students have made.

-Lines will be long. Bring water, snack, sweater, and wear comfortable shoes.

-Be prepared to encounter some less than pleasant college reps.