

Give a Statue a Voice – tips on how to write for a statue

What does your statue have to say for itself?

Monologos means “speaking alone” in Greek, but we all know that people who speak without thinking about their listener can be very dull indeed. Your challenge is to find a ‘voice’ for your statue and to write an engaging monologue in 300 words.

This statue talks back! How the public actually hear the statue ‘speak’

Each statue has a plaque near it. The passer by scans the code / enters the URL on the plaque. Their phone then rings...it’s the statue calling! .

Get under your statue’s skin!

- Look closely and develop a sense of empathy with the sculpture and imagine how it would feel.
- Invite your listener to feel with you: create shifts in tempo and emotion, use different tenses, figures of speech and anecdotes, sensory details and even sound effects.

Finding your sculpture’s voice?

Write in the first person and adopt the persona of your character:

- What kind of vocabulary will you use - your own or that of another era/dialect?
- Your words will be spoken so read them aloud: use their rhythm and your sentence structure to convey emotion and urgency.

How will you keep people listening? Structure your monologue!

- How will you introduce yourself? With a greeting, a warning, a question, an order, a riddle? Grab and hold your listener’s attention from your very first line.
- Think of your monologue as a story, with you as both narrator and lead: how will you build a sense of development, suspense and atmosphere?
- The listener appreciates humour!
- Your final line is important: how will you say goodbye and make your exit?

Do some background research before you begin- find out about your statue

Google around and become an expert on your statue. You are sure to discover interesting facts, songs, anecdotes, jokes or quotes to weave into your monologue.

Some points to keep in mind:

- **The audience is not used to speaking to statues!** It's an unexpected experience and so, the piece needs to be engaging from the start.
- **Every word counts!** It's a short word limit, so avoid 'filler'!
- **The project sets out to reach new audiences:** people who like looking at public art and statues as well as people who didn't know they did! We hope for wide public appeal.
- **Use the physicality of the statue.** If a statue has a distinctive look, you might want to refer to it.
- **Refer to the location and surroundings** of the statue. What's it doing in that place specifically? Does it explore the areas at night when nobody is around?