

## 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?