BEFORE GETTING IN: BUILDING YOUR PORTFOLIO

Choose Variety
Show a range of drawings and other media that display the depth and scope of your talents. Highlight texture and contrast through mixed media. Sure, pencil drawings are great, but show us what else you can do.

Observation is Key
Demonstrate your ability to draw from real life. Drawings of a person, a still life or a landscape – rather than drawings from a photo or someone else’s artwork – will always get higher marks.

Mind Your Composition
Highlight your composition skills. Composition is all about selecting the right elements and arranging them in a unique way within the picture space to communicate an idea or feeling. Try asymmetrical arrangements or use different angles of composition.

Experiment
Dive into different materials. Combine them and see what happens. If your style is tight and detailed, try working loose and with gesture. Push yourself in a different direction and out of your comfort zone.

Deliver the Unexpected
Demonstrate not only your ability to draw objects accurately, but also conceptually. Think about a message, story or emotion you’re trying to convey.

Seek Feedback
Feedback helps you grow. Get it from your teachers, counselors and peers. Post your artwork on Facebook, Flickr and Youtube. There are resources at your disposal throughout this website. Take advantage!

New Media
Digital art and animation are big and only getting bigger. If you have any animated pieces you feel are worth a look, include them in a DVD or post them online and send us the link.

Look Beyond the Obvious
Look beyond the obvious to communicate an idea or theme. For example, use everyday objects as letters to deliver impact and drive home a memorable message.

What’s the Concept?
Don’t just take a picture. Make a picture. Organize and execute a scene to communicate a powerful idea. It’s an effective way to add emotion and meaning to your work.