

# Make Art Work

an artist's guide for success



Workforce Development Project



AmeriCorps

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Welcome to your AmeriCorps service year at Imagine Art. You are about to embark on an 11-month journey as a teaching artist-in-resident that we hope is a transformational experience on a personal and professional level.

During your service year, you will be strengthening your community by enriching the lives of the artists at Imagine Art. You are also tasked with shaping your future and *Preparing for Life after AmeriCorps*, even if you are planning on returning for another service year!

*Make Art Work* is a guide to help you better understand yourself as you begin your service year and think about your future. This guide and its exercises are available on the Imagine Art website at <https://www.imagineart.net/preparingforlifeafteramericorps> or via the QR Code below).

Remember, you are the author of your own success story, and you get to define what success looks like for you.

Good luck!



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## Make Art Work | What Does Success Mean to You?

You need a reasonably clear picture of what it looks like so you can figure out your goals.

Below are a few examples:

*Earning a living from my art*

*Being famous*

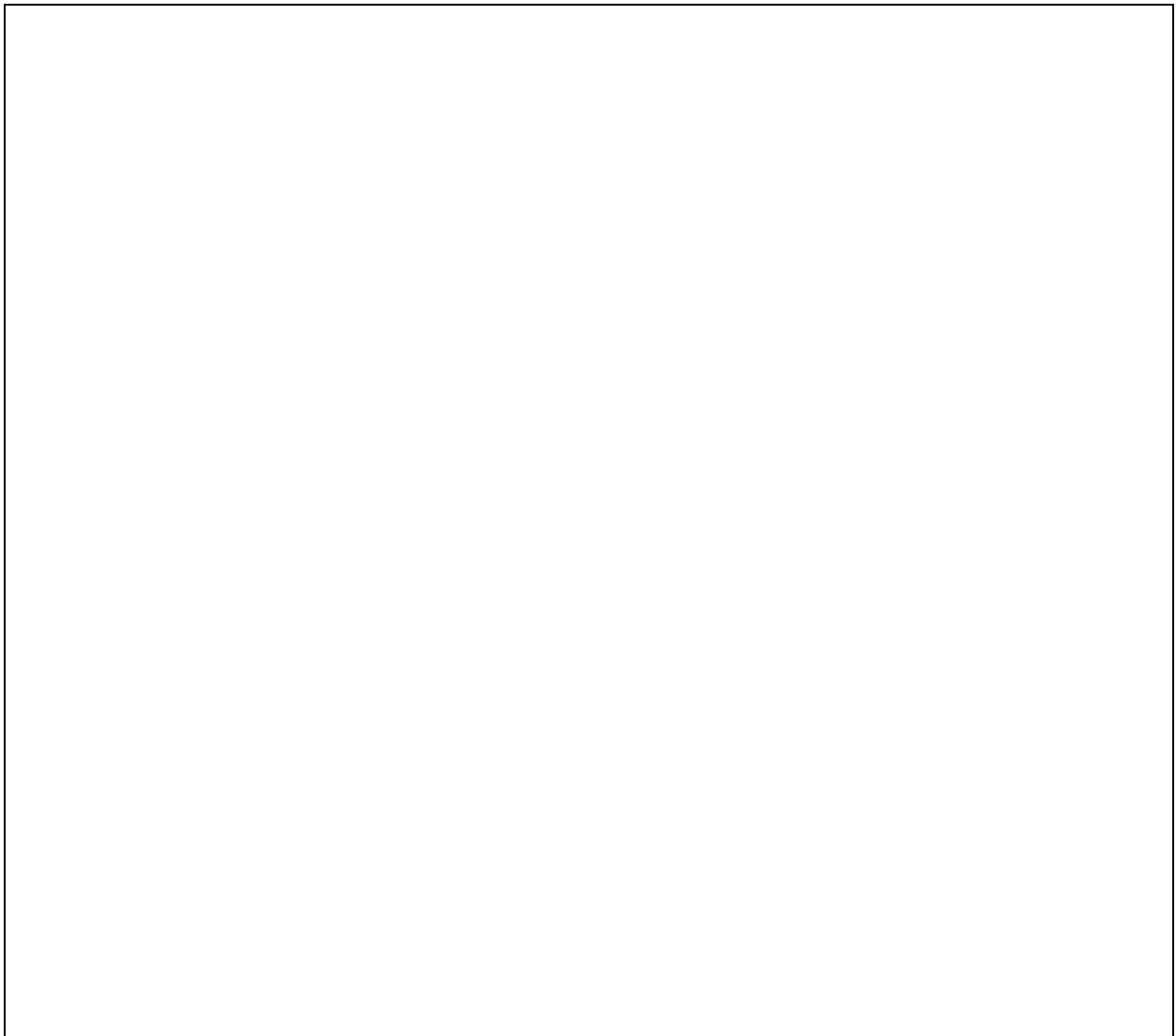
*Enjoying what I do*

*Balancing art with interests*

*Feeling good about my work*

*Raising a Family*

Write or draw your picture of success...



**Action Required:** When you have finished this exercise, complete the online “My Success” Survey at <https://www.imagineart.net/preparingforlifeafteramericorps>

## Make Art Work | Assets & Deficits

Before setting specific goals, spend some time thinking about what work activities you are good at, and where you could use improvement.

Don't spend time beating yourself up for the deficits and don't downplay your strengths. This is designed to help you honestly think about what you're really good at and what areas of your art-business practice you either need to improve or manage around.

Assets	Deficits

**Action Required:** When you have finished this exercise, complete the online "Assets/Deficits" Survey at <https://www.imagineart.net/preparingforlifeafteramericorps>

## Make Art Work | Endure & Prefer

Now spend some time thinking about your past work experiences and what types of tasks, situations, schedules and people you *preferred* and the ones you simply *endured*. What did you like? What did you dislike?

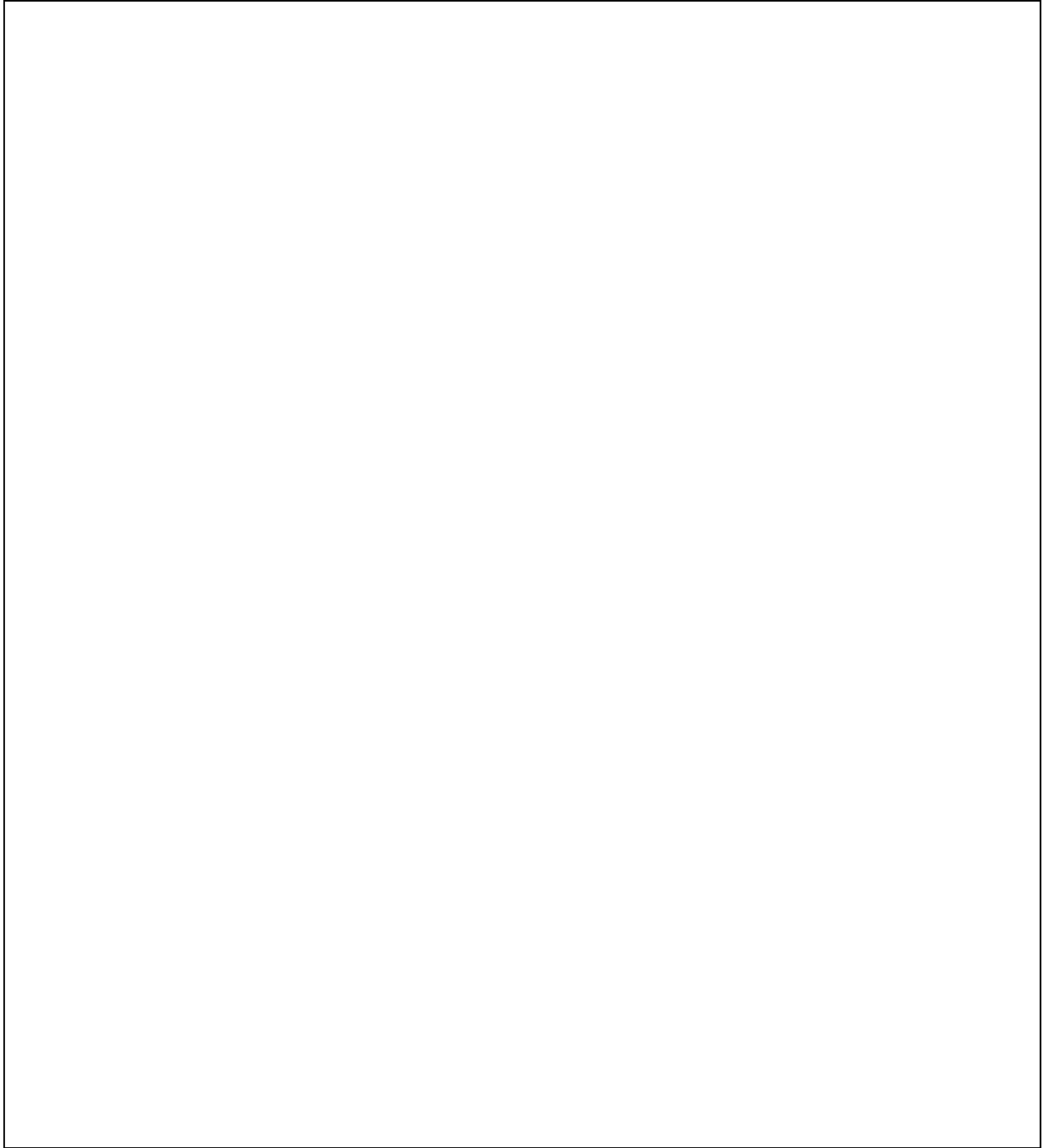
Consider ANY work activities you have performed in the past—making art, day jobs, volunteer work or hobbies.

Endure	Prefer

**Action Required:** When you have finished this exercise, complete the online “Endure/Prefer” Survey at <https://www.imagineart.net/preparingforlifeafteramericorps>

## Make Art Work | The Obituary Exercise

It's pretty simple. *Write* your own obituary. What do you want people to remember about you? Don't just think about your career—imagine your *whole* life.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write their obituary. The box is centered on the page and occupies most of the middle section.

**Optional:** When you have finished this exercise, complete the online “My Obituary” Survey at <https://www.imagineart.net/preparingforlifeafteramericorps>

## Make Art Work | Goal Setting

Decide on a goal. State it in measurable terms. Determine whether the goal is achievable. You want a challenge, but don't set yourself up to fail. Identify why this goal is worthwhile. Does it relate to your picture of success? Does it relate to your long-term goals? Anticipate and identify *problems* you might run into and think about strategies for solving those problems. Define specific action steps to achieve the goal.

Use your responses from the *Assets & Deficits*, *Endure & Prefer*, and *What Does Success Look Like for You?* exercises from this workbook and your responses *Start of the Year Journaling Exercise* to decide on at least 3 goals for your Service Year. The Goal Organizers on the following pages to help you draft a goal.

**Action Required:** Complete the "Goal Setting Survey" at <https://www.imagineart.net/preparingforlifeafteramericorps>

Examples...

	<b>Specific</b> <i>Write your specific goal here. Include as many details as possible.</i>	<b>Measurable</b> <i>How will you measure your progress? How will you know when you've achieved the goal?</i>	<b>Actionable</b> <i>List 3 action steps you can take towards the goal</i>	<b>Realistic</b> <i>Your goals should be challenging, but not impossible to attain. Is this goal realistic? How do you know?</i>	<b>Timed</b> <i>When is your deadline for achieving your goal?</i>	<i>What (if any) additional training, support or guidance do you need to achieve this goal?</i>
<b>Sample Goal #1</b>	I want to enroll in a 4-year college when I finish my service term.	I will apply, get accepted, and enroll in college.	1. Take the ACT; 2. Complete FAFSA; 3. Apply to colleges	Yes, I graduated from high school with a 3.0 GPA	I want to be accepted by April and start classes by August	I need help completing my FAFSA
<b>Sample Goal #2</b>	I want a website to showcase and sell my artwork by the end of my service year.	I will subscribe to a web service, design my website, and start selling my artwork.	1. Research website options. 2. Talk with other artists about their websites. 3. Offer to work on the Imagine Art website to gain experience.	Yes. I have computer and design skills as well as artwork to display and sell.	I want the website up and running by August 1.	I need experience working on websites, time to work on my website, learn more about pricing my artwork and eCommerce.



## Goal One Organizer

S.M.A.R.T. Goal Template (Excel Spreadsheet) available for download at <https://www.imagineart.net/preparingforlifeafteramericorps>

### Questions to help you draft a goal...

What is the goal? Make it specific and measurable.

How does this goal relate to your long-term goals and ideas of success?

Make an action plan. What specific steps will you need to take?

What are the problems you will face? And what are your strategies for solving them?

## Goal Two Organizer

S.M.A.R.T. Goal Template (Excel Spreadsheet) available for download at <https://www.imagineart.net/preparingforlifeafteramericorps>

### Questions to help you draft a goal...

What is the goal? Make it specific and measurable.

How does this goal relate to your long-term goals and ideas of success?

Make an action plan. What specific steps will you need to take?

What are the problems you will face? And what are your strategies for solving them?

## Goal Three Organizer

S.M.A.R.T. Goal Template (Excel Spreadsheet) available for download at <https://www.imagineart.net/preparingforlifeafteramericorps>

### Questions to help you draft a goal...

What is the goal? Make it specific and measurable.

How does this goal relate to your long-term goals and ideas of success?

Make an action plan. What specific steps will you need to take?

What are the problems you will face? And what are your strategies for solving them?