

**DIY Publications and Media Literacy:  
Zines in the Classroom**

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Jenna Freedman

Zine Librarian, Barnard College



# what is a zine?

"...zines are noncommercial, nonprofessional, small-circulation magazines which their creators produce, publish, and distribute themselves."

Stephen Duncombe. *Notes from Underground: Zines and the Politics of Alternative Culture*. Verso, 1997. p.6

Different types of zines:

Comix, compilation, DIY, fanzine, personal, political, split



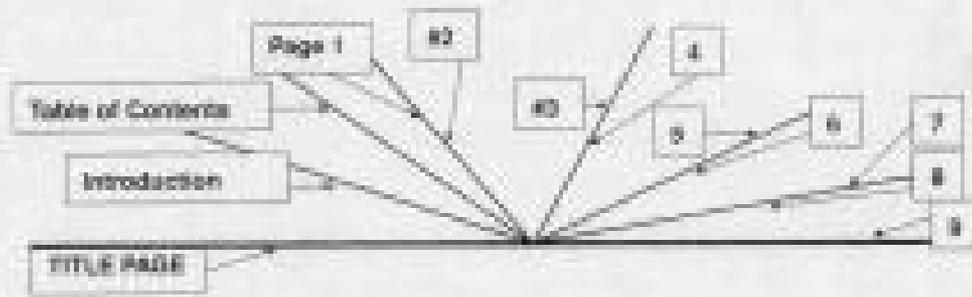
# lesson plans

- Types of zines: comix , compilation (theme), fan, personal, political, school, split
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Fairy tale
- ESL in a high school
- High school English
- Instant Zine
- College

# Zines

- Cover - Title Page: You need a GREAT title!
- Introduction to readers
- Table of Contents
- Zine must be a minimum of 4 sheets of paper folded in half. Zine can have more pages but not fewer. Remember each new sheet adds four new pages to fill.

VIEWED FROM THE BOTTOM OF ZINE



Potential Topics

1. Poetry (of course)
2. Lists of whatever
3. Puzzles
4. Theme Zines
5. Movie Reviews
6. Sports
7. Music
8. TV Shows
9. FAMILY MEMORIES
10. Graphics, drawings
11. CYBERCULT
12. Word Play
13. Dear Abby, Help Please
14. Dear Doctor, Help Please
15. My Life - Now
16. My Life - Then
17. My Life - I wish
18. Sports - Hilarious - Funny - Fails can be decorative

Bott, Christie. "Zines, the Ultimate Creative Writing Project." *English Journal*. November 2002. v. 92, n. 2. page 28.

Note: this is the journal with ISSN 0013-8274 and is *not* the journal continued by *College English*.

Adapted from Ayun Halliday, *The East Village Inky*. ©2005

Your zine will be the size of a sheet of paper folded in half (along the long side)

You will use both sides of 3 sheets of paper to make 12 digest-sized zine pages. You can either write or draw directly onto the pages or paste your content later.

Remember to leave a half inch margin on all four sides of each zine page so that nothing will be lost during your Xeroxing!

Paper #1 (long side)

Side A			Side B	
Back Cover	Cover	+	Inside Cover	Inside Back Cover

(side B is xeroxed onto the back of side A)

Paper #2

Side A			Side B	
Page 10	Page 3	+	Page 4	Page 9

Paper #3

Side A			Side B	
Page 8	Page 5	+	Page 6	Page 7

If you don't have a long armed stapler, ask the copy shop to staple the issue for you, or use yarn or thread to sew a binding.

It may help to make a sloppy copy with scrap paper to see what the layout will look like.

Halliday, Ayun. 2005.  
From presentation  
to Allisyn Levy's 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Grade class at PS  
261. Brooklyn, NY.  
<http://www.ayunhalliday.com>



# standards/outcomes

- Multimedia
- Critique
- ELA standards:
  - communicative competence
  - Read, listen to view a variety of texts from a wide range of authors, subjects, genres, cultures, and historical periods
  - Communication to enrich understanding of people and their views
- Collaboration/interdisciplinary
- Quality improvement resulting from peer evaluation
- Public speaking



# history

- 1770s: broadsides
- 1920s: surrealist, dada
- 1930s: science fiction
- 1940s: chapbooks
- 1950s: samizdat
- 1960s: comix
- 1970s: punk
- 1990s: riot grrrl

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