Zine Making
Writing Class 3 with Liv Rouse
What is a zine?
WHY PUBLISH A ZINE?

Zines are super powerful! They can communicate rebellious words and strong ideas. People who feel a burning need to share their ideas and energy with the world make zines, so it’s no coincidence that zine culture is often associated with some of the most energetic social movements.
HOW TO FOLD
a simple 8-page zine

Zines are like small books! They can be about whatever you want, and you can make copies of your zine with a photocopier!
writing/zining prompts

Just a few ideas to get you started...

- The ABCs of you - with one piece for each letter. If I wrote one, it might look like: “A is for Anarchism, B is for Bisexuality, C is for Coffee (or The Clash),” and so on. You could even do it as a series of zines, a la Dora.

- A zine about a specific theme (for instance: places you’ve lived, crushes you’ve had, etc.)

- A zine about big huge events in your life - deaths, births, moving, marriage/relationships, breakups, graduation; or a zine about firsts - first kiss, first album you heard that really blew your mind, etc.

- A zine about the tiny grand moments of your life - finding a perfect outfit at a thrift store, staying up all night and watching the sun rise, an odd encounter at a coffee shop, etc.

- A zine of reviews - I don’t mean typical reviews, where you write “this band sounds like this other band” or “this zine is recommended if you like this other zine.” I’m talking reviews that are really more stories and vignettes than they are reviews, and/or are woven into the larger narrative arc of the zine. (I have seen this tactic used to great effect in both Emergency and Burn Collection. I have included excerpts from both of those zines in this handout.) The fun thing about doing it this way is that you don’t just have to review albums, books, films, etc. - you can also review your car, or ramen noodles, or your psychiatrist or your roommate.

LIST of potential zine prompts:

- zine of lists
- how to boil water
- zine of bad habits you have
- good habits you want to have
- nightmares and/or dreams
- outfits you wore all week (real or imagined)
- your mental health struggles, goals, progress
- MUSIC! playlists for real or imagined friends, albums/artists you love and why
- your room: drawings or notes from the place you wake up in or the space you wish for
- WISHES
- FEARS
- a zine about zines??
- drawings of stills from your favorite movies, shows, etc.
- HEALTH related ideas: digestion stuff, struggles
- ANIMALS you love and why (REAL or IMAGINED)
- my hand is CRAMPING
Types of Zine Formats:

- Pocket Fold: Sleek corporate style. A short fold creates space to nest an additional piece. This fold is perfect for organizing designs that are full of information.
- Stepped Double Parallel: By shortening the cover, this fold creates a subtle effect. A great solution for showcasing a little information at a time.
- Covered Map Fold: Fold up a map fold by adding a slightly larger, thicker weight card to each outside panel. This creates a more finished looking piece and makes opening and closing easier.
- Angled Accordion Fold: A unique cut lends this fold a fun and organized design.
- Uneven Accordion: For an attention-grabbing reveal, try the uneven accordion. When finished, it is flush, but as the reader unfolds the piece, slanted panels come to light.
- Wrapped Stepped Accordion with Short Cover: An innovative twist on the accordion fold. The short cover allows the freedom to show off the stepped panels.
- Flower Fold with Water Seal: Perfect for invitations or a great center reveal, this flower fold is sure to capture attention. Add a water seal to close and mail.
- Burst Fold: Think outside the box when designing. This exciting die cut and fold really creates an interactive experience for the user.
- Tapered Roll Fold: Tapered edge adds a unique twist to the traditional roll fold.
- Flip Fold: A different character. The flip fold gives the designer a fun and geometric way to entertain the reader. Perfect for revealing a great payoff.
- Short Fold: Simple intrigue. The traditional short fold creates a heightened interest as the information is slowly introduced to the reader.
Hi!!! We make zines in Microsoft Publisher!! It's easy, so easy in fact you may be like Why Are You Telling Me This but Zine Culture is about keeping things honest, accessible + demystified - so here's yr step-by-step guide

1. Open Publisher + click on "MORE BLANK PAGE SIZES"

2. Click on the folder "BOOKLETS"

3. Go for half A4 booklet, easiest/cheapest to print on standard printers (do what u want though!)

4. So this is what I use!!! 😊
layout

CUT & PASTE Style

The layout is about being conscious of how you use space in a slide. It can create a setting and a mood. Cool layout is not an excuse for good writing. It is more like a backdrop that can enhance your writing.

I tend to look at slides very differently than typical books. There are so many more options for creative layout and presentation. This can be more than just black words on white paper.

Cut and paste is an organic method of laying out a page. As opposed to using a computer, it is simple, yet a lot of thought can go into it. I’m biased. I love cut and paste, probably because I can’t/don’t know how to get the look I want out of a computer.

I also enjoy working with tangible objects, my mind can’t comprehend layout on a computer screen.

MAKE A LIL’ ZINE

1. Find a couple sheets of standard paper
2. Fold in half and number the pages
3. Write and draw whatever you feel like
4. Master copies are ready for reproduction
5. Sneak into an office building
6. Run about 1000 copies
7. Swipe a stapler on the way out
8. Hide them for strangers to find

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the annia book

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