

Lesson Plan: Introduction to Zine Making

Grade Level: Middle School – High School

Subject: Visual Arts

Duration: 1–2 class periods (45–90 minutes total)

Objective: Students will understand what a zine is, explore its history and purpose, and create their own mini-zine using basic materials.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Define what a zine is and describe its cultural significance.
- Identify different types of zines (e.g., personal, political, artistic).
- Plan and create a simple 8-page mini-zine using one sheet of paper.

Materials Needed

- 8.5" x 11" paper (one per student)
- Pens, pencils, markers
- Scissors
- Glue sticks, magazines (optional for collage)
- Examples of zines (teacher-created or student-made)

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction (10–15 minutes)

- Briefly explain what a zine is: a small, self-published booklet often used for self-expression, activism, or storytelling.
- Show examples (physical or digital) to inspire students. *See “Free Zine-Making Resources” below*
- Discuss the DIY ethos and how zines have been used historically by marginalized voices.

2. Demonstration (10 minutes)

- Show how to fold and cut a single sheet of paper into an 8-page mini-zine.
- Walk through each fold step-by-step with the class.

3. Creation Time (20–40 minutes)

- Students brainstorm a theme or message for their zine (e.g., identity, favorite hobby, social issue).
- Begin designing and illustrating their pages.
- Encourage creativity— zines can be messy, expressive, and personal.

4. Sharing & Reflection (10–15 minutes)

- Invite students to share their zines in small groups or with the class.
- Reflect on what they learned about self-expression and storytelling.

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Assessment

- Participation in discussion and creation.
- Completion of a mini-zine with a clear theme or message.
- Reflection on the process (verbal or written).



Extensions (Optional)

- Create a class zine by compiling pages from each student.
- Explore digital zine-making tools.
- Connect with a local zine library or artist for a guest talk.

Free Zine-Making Resources

Templates & Folding Guides

1. Sarah Mirk's Zine Templates

- Offers free, printable zine templates (US Letter & A4), including multilingual versions.
- Includes a video tutorial on folding a one-page zine.

 <https://www.mirkwork.com/free-zines-to-download>

2. Carolyn Swiszczy's Free Zine Pamphlet

- Printable zine and storage box templates for classroom or nonprofit use.

 <https://www.carolynswiszczy.com/template>

Lesson Plans & Teaching Guides

3. Zine Libraries Info – Teaching with Zines

- A comprehensive guide with best practices, sample activities, and assessment ideas.
- Includes a zine-format teaching guide and links to additional resources.

 <https://www.zinelibraries.info/running-a-zine-library/>

4. Barnard Zine Library – Lesson Plans

- Offers adaptable lesson plans for grades 7–college.
- Covers topics like protest, media literacy, and marginalized voices.

 <https://zines.barnard.edu/lesson-plans>

Zine Archives & Libraries

5. Sherwood Forest Virtual Zine Library

- Hundreds of downloadable zines organized by topic (e.g., art, activism, identity).
- Great for classroom examples or inspiration.

 <https://www.sherwoodforestzinelibrary.org/>

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Front Cover

Back Cover

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PAGE ⑦



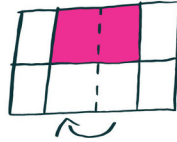
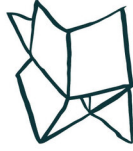
FOLD ALONG THE DOTTED LINES

FOLD

CUT HERE

FOLD

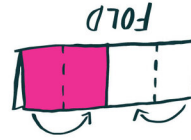
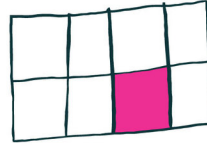
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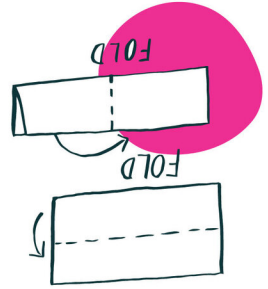
UNFOLD

PAGE ⑤



FOLD

PAGE ④



One PAGE ZINE

CUT HERE

FOLD ALONG THE DOTTED LINES

BACK COVER

PRINT is POWER



PUT it in PRINT!

MAKE, PRINT, SHARE!

PAGE ⑧

FRONT COVER

LISTEN, this PAGE isn't PRECIOUS...USE it to MAKE A ZINE.

PAGE ①

WHAT is A Zine?

ZINES ARE USUALLY CHEAPLY

(BUT AWESOME & EMPOWERING) FORMS OF PRINTED EXPRESSION on ANY SUBJECT.

PAGE ②

INTENSE FOCUS

IS GOOD!

PRINT is HEY!

YOU HAVE STUFF TO SAY!



PAGE ③

Early 1900s women's suffrage sash from the NC Archives Equal Suffrage Amendment Collection. How do we support causes today?

VOTES FOR WOMEN

Dragging Canoe, a Cherokee warrior who fought to preserve Cherokee land and culture.



As for me, I have my young warriors about me. We will have our lands.

Visions of Freedom

Gathering Voices

North Carolina's many voices inspire future generations to create and lead. You are part of North Carolina's story, too!

Learn more about a family member, neighbor, or friend with oral history! Use the QR code or link to access interview questions.

https://www.america250.nc.gov/oral-history_



Resources

Learn more on our website!

www.america250.nc.gov

- educator resources
- events calendar
- newsletter



Common Ground

In addition to shared political ideals, North Carolinians love the state's variety of ecosystems with unique flora and fauna! From our state carnivorous plant, the Venus flytrap, to endangered species like the red wolf, we must take up the charge to make our state a better place.



Speaking Out

North Carolinians have spoken out against injustice for many years. From Ned Griffin to Ella Baker, North Carolinians have taken stands for important rights.



Above, Civil Rights protesters picket Sir Walter Hotel in 1963. Below, reenactment of home during a 1781 "Tories" attack.



Think about it!



What freedoms do you value most?

Use your voice!



When are We Us?



When Are We Us?



An exploration of the ideas of freedom, civic responsibility, overcoming challenges, and change. Commemorating revolutionary people from 1776 and beyond! Who is revolutionary to you?



Learn more here! america250.nc.gov/when-are-we-us