Your Basic Guide to:

ZINES

Created By Taira Creager
Use these next few blank pages to sketch, draw, brainstorm some ideas for your zines.

What is a Zine?

Zine: A small press/small circulation publication

Zines are created using a variety of methods and are traditionally reproduced using a copier machine. Topics and themes of zines can be very broad and pretty much you can make a zine about anything. They can include writing, poems, art, collage, and illustrations.

The best thing about zines is anyone can make them!
A Brief History of Zines:

1910s-20s:
In the heart of the Harlem Renaissance, starting around 1917 and leading all the way through the 1920s, there were small publishings called little magazines. Little magazines featured a variety of writings such as poetry, prose, essays of radicalism, experimental writing, space for subversion, and critiques of white culture. These magazines were either produced by individuals or creative groups who highlighted smaller voices amongst the powerhouses of black literature. Little magazines were distributed locally, but some were spread nationally.

1930s:
Science fiction communities began publishing Fanzines, short for Fan Magazine. Before the internet, this is how fandoms would create networks, share ideas, analyze and collaborate on writings.

1950s-60s:
Counterculture in association with the Beat Generation created an underground press for artists, writers, and poets looking to have a voice outside of the mainstream media.

ZINE PROMPT: Make a Perzine

Idea list for your Perzine:

- A trip you took.
- An experience you had.
- What did I do during quaratine?
- What are my favorite things?
- What is my identity made of?
- What is something I do?
- What did I have for breakfast?
- A funny memory.
- Random thoughts and silly things

What is something you would like to share about yourself?

Ways to create a Perzine

Diary Comic
Tell your story in the form of a comic

Poetry or Writing
You don’t have to draw in order to express yourself.

Only Using Images
No words just pure imagery. You can draw or collage pictures.

A Combination of Everything!
Can’t decide? Don’t feel like you have to stick to one thing.
A guide on assembling a collaborative zine

Create Pages

1960s-70s
Art and Literary Magazines are circled around on cheapy printed publications discussing art, politics, and culture.

1980s-90s
Punk zines start to rise consisting of music genres, fanzines, political tracts, aesthetics, ideals and sub culture. And then growing out of the punk movement Riot Grrrl took place by centering feminism, sex and chaos.

Stack the pages together and fold in half

ZINES TODAY!
Zines have exploded and expanded into many forms, communities, identities, and cultures. Zines have made their way around the world. There’s a zine for everything and everyone. And some zines have even transcended paper and moved into the digital realm of the internet.

Gather the pages and photocopy them together

Bind the zine using a stapler

You can even look up ways to bind zines with string.


Types of Zines

Political Zines
Zines discussing political ideas and events. Used by activist to spread information about certain topics like race, sexuality, gender and resistance to to higher oppression. Very popular in underground and punk scenes. These zines were often a way to spread information before the internet.

Per-zines
Or also known as personal zines. Perzines tell a narrative of the author’s experiences with something or some sort of event.

Comic Zines
Perfect for artists and comic artists to circulate their own comics without having to go through a publisher.

Fanzines
Zines that focus on a particular fandom. A lot of early fanzines were about Star Trek and Star Wars. And fun fact, this is how fan fiction was spread before the internet.

How to Guides
Zines with instructions or showing you how to do something.

Webzine
A zine but solely published online.

There are many types of zines, these are just some of the more popular ones to make.
Zine Formats

8 Page out of 1 Sheet
A technique used to create a zine only using 1 sheet of paper.

Booklet
Created using multiple sheets of paper folded in half to create a zine. Can be bound together using staples or stitching with bookbinding thread.

Accordion
A long continuous strip folded into a booklet.

Printing Zines

Traditionally and most often used is the photocopier.

Although there are other creative ways to reproduce zines, like screenprinting and block printing.

Zines can also be created digitally using drawing programs like photoshop. This allows for zines to be turned into PDFs and shared digitally online.
Individual and Collaborative

Creating zines can be a individual or a collaborative experience.

Individual Zines
Creating zines by yourself can allow you full creative control and let you be the sole voice for your zine.

Collaborative Zines
But creating zines doesn’t have to be a solitary activity. Zine collaboration can be a great way to connect to communities that you have shared interest and identity with. A lot of zines rely on submissions from multiple people to be created.

Now that you’ve learned about zines. LET MAKE ONE!