



February 6, 2020

Tips and tools from your school library

LOW HANGING FRUIT

Start a Zine Scene at your School!

By Deana Brown

Start a what scene?! A zine! Zines are self-published booklets or magazines that are often authored by amateur writers. They have their roots in fanzines, fan + (maga)zine, which were a way for fans to share their enthusiasm for all things sci-fi. The short length and small scale of a zines make them a novel tool to help students beat the winter doldrums. How? I'm so glad you asked!

There are a few [zine posts on the Programming Librarian](#) site that have tips and templates you can use. One of the great things about a zine event is you can host one with supplies you probably already have: paper, scissors, pens, pencils, weeded books and magazines, markers, and staplers! Once you've gathered your supplies, choose a theme for the zines students will be making, or let them choose a topic they're excited about.

Why incorporate zines into my library or classroom? The ["Zines in the Classroom" slide deck](#) has some compelling reasons:

- A platform for creative writing that allows students to independently publish their own narratives- without editing
- Students have the ability to write about their own personal experiences in their own vernaculars
- Students can write about their own personal experiences, without being harshly criticized or judged
- Students are given the agency to share and distribute their work – creating their own publishing communities

Want to Learn More? Resources for your radar:

Zine Wiki: <http://zinewiki.com/>

History of Zines: <https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/88911/brief-history-zines>

How to Make a Zine: <https://www.rookiemag.com/2012/05/how-to-make-a-zine/>

Zine Librarian (un)Conference ZLuC: <http://zinelibraries.info/events/zine-librarian-unconferences/>

American Libraries Article, "One the Zine Scene"
<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2020/01/02/library-zine-scene/>

Lesley University Library, workshop planning
<https://research.lesley.edu/c.php?g=523624&p=4838944>

Barnard College, zine lesson plans
<https://zines.barnard.edu/lesson-plans>

Zines in the classroom by Katie Heffner
<https://uiowa.instructure.com/eportfolios/211/entries/324/files/>

LINKS TO MORE LEARNING



How to Make a Zine

This soothing YouTube video provides an informative and inspiring overview of the basics of making a zine.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00Hxh4pKwvM>

Zinelibraries.info

Interested in taking a deeper dive into the wide, wonderful world of zines, learning about zine libraries and librarianship, and maybe even starting a zine library (or a zine) of your own? Find a wealth of information at

<http://zinelibraries.info/about/>

Before Blogs, There Were Zines

This JSTOR article provides an overview and brief history of zines, with links to more in-depth articles on the subject.

<https://daily.istor.org/before-blogs-there-were-zines/>

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



From A to Zine

Looking to learn more about the benefits of using zines in the classroom, and some practical ideas for how to go about it?

From A to Zine offers an overview of zines, student and teacher perspectives on their value, lesson plans, zine templates, and an online gallery of zines suitable for all ages.

<https://www.fromatozine.com/>

DIGITAL TOOLS



101 Science Experiments

In the do-it-yourself spirit of this month's Low Hanging Fruit, check out this Gale Virtual Reference Library eBook, freely available on lili.org, for—you guessed it—101 science experiments that can be done with household items and easily found ingredients!

https://lili.org/full-resource-index/?wpv_post_search=&topics=0&user_groups=grades-5-8&wpv_view_count=22



