

YOUR HANDS.  
YOUR BRAIN.  
YOUR STORIES.



**LET'S  
MAKE  
A  
ZINE!** 

# What is a Zine?

Zines are small publications that are created by individuals and fueled by independent vision! In other words, zines are made by ordinary people about the things they love, and the ideas close to their hearts.

A zine can be any size or shape but is usually copied or printed and stapled together like a booklet. It could be bound with a rubber band, yarn, or string. It might include drawings, comics, articles, interviews, or anything one can imagine.



Here are some recent zines I've seen:

- A zine about bathrooms
- A zine featuring pictures of cats and words of encouragement
- A zine that explores the life and work of a Japanese wrestler
- A zine dedicated to reviews of every single pizza shop in New York!

Though these are examples of zines that are about something, a zine doesn't have to be about anything specific. Include whatever you want! An interview with your grandpa, drawings of your junk mail, an essay on politics, a comic about how you are feeling these days. It's all ok!

## Zines build connections!

A zine is written and designed for a reader. They're published in small quantities and can be sold, shared, or traded. Most zines are a few dollars if they are sold.

Reading a zine feels like an intimate experience, like you are getting to know someone. Sometimes it feels like you are reading a letter from a friend. That kind of human connection is powerful!

# Where should you start?

What's on your mind these days? What are your best stories to tell? What do you want to teach someone? Is there something you'd like to explore? Who would you like to interview? What do you love right now? What do you dislike? Brainstorm a list of things you might be interested in including in your zine.

# Gather supplies

One of the beautiful things about making zines is that it brings us back to using our hands. Zines are cut and pasted together, with glue and tape and scissors. Things can be imperfect and raw and messy in a way that conveys a lot about the creator. What your hands and your brain do together is unique and special.

Of course, there are some who might prefer designing on a computer, but consider leaving all that behind for the pleasure of rediscovering what you can do without screens. Or perhaps you combine the two approaches in a way that pleases you!

## You might need:

Glue stick

Scissors

Tape

Pens, sharpies, etc. (Black is best unless you plan to work in color—just know it is more money to print full-color zines!)

Images—photos, magazines or books, stamps, or any kind of pictures you find... I love this web site full of illustrations from the past:

<https://etc.usf.edu/clipart/>



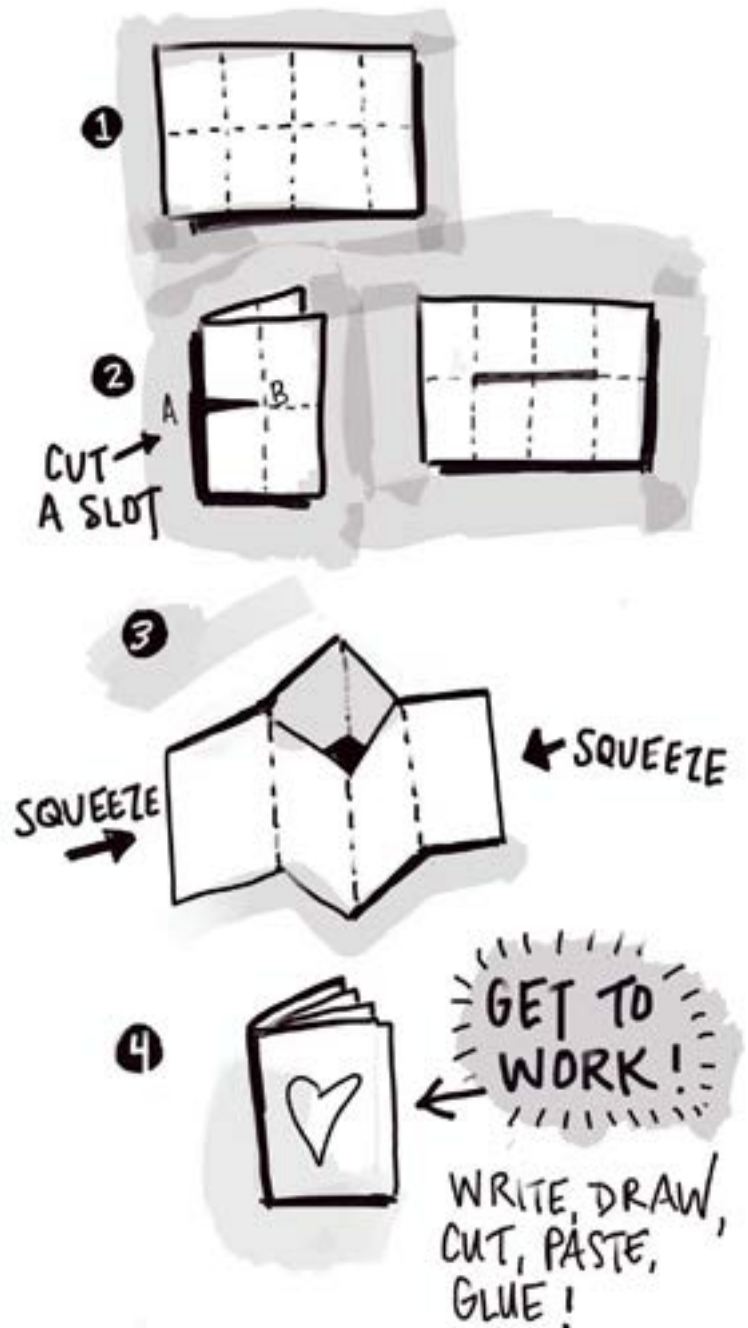
## A CHALLENGE:

# Make A One-Page Mini Zine

This type of zine is excellent because it is cheap to create lots of copies! It uses a single sheet of paper and needs no stapling—and from that one piece of paper, you can create an 8 page zine. And yet, you can create an experience for your reader that is rich and satisfying, even in a small space!

Here is [a link that will show you how to make one!](#) (It is by Celia C. Pérez, the author of *The First Rule of Punk!*)

1. Fold your paper across the long side (known to some of you as “hot dog style”), then unfold. Then fold the short way across “hamburger style.” Fold that hot dog style. Unfold. Do you have 8 equal sections?
2. OK. Fold along the crease to get back to hamburger style! Use your scissors to cut from the folded edge of the paper (A) to point B.
3. Unfold again! Your paper has a horizontal slit in it. Fold it lengthwise (hot dog style). Hold your folded sheet paper and push your hands together. Squeeze! The slit in your paper should bow outwards into a diamond shape!
4. Crease the pages and you have a small booklet, a mini zine.
5. Get to work filling your 8 pages! Be sure to leave about 1/4 inch along the outer edge of the paper— it will get cut off when copying.
6. Unfold your zine.
7. Make copies!



## A CHALLENGE:

# Make A Bigger Zine

This type of zine is a more complex challenge. You should know that making a zine involves sweat and sometimes tears! It is hard work! You will get carried away while writing, drawing, cutting, and pasting. You might feel giddy as this new and powerful thing that you made takes shape. You might struggle at times too! This is part of the process: it isn't easy, and it shouldn't be. Creating anything from nothing is hard work.

### Here is the secret.

There are no instructions. No one can tell you how to do this. Be an agile problem solver! Approach this project in a way that makes sense to you.

### You could:

- Fold a few sheets of paper in half and start a list of how you might fill the pages. Then you could get started, building pages on those sheets of paper.
- Figure out a name for your zine and make your cover.
- Call a few friends and get them to promise to write or draw something to help you fill your pages. Give them a deadline or you'll never get it! Be prepared to nag!
- Open a word document and start writing. Or pick up a pen and start writing.



### Hints:

- Be sure to leave about 1/4 inch margin around each page. When you copy or scan this, you don't want the edges of things to get cut off.
- Numbering the pages helps to keep them in order.
- Every copier or scanner is different. It's always hard figuring out how to get your zine printed! It will require trial and error. Being prepared for it to be hard helps though... (Sometimes people get fancy and just take it to a copy store where they will help you.)
- To staple a zine that is half of regular letter sized paper, you'll need a special long-armed stapler to reach the center. They are available at office supply stores. If you don't have one, find another way!
- Give yourself a deadline—or else the project may not get done! A little fear stokes the fires of creativity.

**Are you done? Now your zine has a life of its own!** When your zine is complete, share, sell, or trade it! As you do, the thing that you made, your zine, will come alive in the world, traveling from friend to neighbor to stranger.

## Resources

<https://thecreativeindependent.com/guides/how-to-make-a-zine/>

<https://wemakezines.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/DIY-No2-Zines-2.pdf>

## Google These!

Zine Distros: Distributors of zines, online mostly.

Zinefests: National and regional zine events where you can meet up with other zine makers and sell/share/trade your work!