BLM 8 Student Resource

Grade 8, What’s a Zine?

Zines are cheaply made printed forms of expression on any subject. They are like mini-magazines or homemade comic books about favourite bands, funny stories, sub-cultures, personal collections, comix anthologies, diary entries, pathetic report cards, chain restaurants, and anything else.

Zines can be by one person or many. They can be any size: half page, rolled up, quarter sized, etc.

Zines are read by anyone willing to take a look, from concert-goers and the mail man to people on the train. They are sold at bookstores, thumbed through at zine libraries, exchanged at comic conventions, and mailed off to strangers.

Zines are not a new idea. They have been around under different names (Chap Books, pamphlets, flyers). People with independent ideas have been getting their word out since there were printing presses.

It’s a great feeling to hold copies of your zine in your hand. Go ahead, there is no wrong way.

— From Whatcha Mean, What’s A Zine? by Mark Todd & Esther Pearl Watson

ZINES are independently published magazines, made by individuals or collectives who want to express their alternative, uncensored views. Often photocopied, folded and stapled, ZINES can also be explosive works of art.

— From OCADU Zine Library Collection

A zine is usually a non – commercial, non professional publication, kind of like a magazine but with a twist. The main difference between a magazine and a zine is that zines are not out there to make a profit but, rather, to add other, often unheard voices into the mix. Zines are usually made out of interest and passion and are often self-published by the writer/artist/creator.Typically zines are made using collage techniques and are then photocopied since these are means available to almost everyone.

— From AGO Art Matters Blog

GLOSSARY

Binding – fastening your zine pages together

Collating – gathering the pages of your zine in order

Copyright – ownership of writings, drawings, photos granted by law during a set amount of time for protection of reproduction, sales and production

Factsheet Five – zine started by Mike Gunderloy in the 1980s, it reviewed zines

High contrast – striking difference in black-and-white tone

Independent or Indy – not connected or related to any company

Paginating – arrangement and numbering of the pages of your zine

Publication Name – name of your zine

Review – someone reading your zine and summarizing what it is about and giving their opinion (good or bad!)

Signatures – a section of a zine that is bound by itself and will later be bound with a group of identical-size sections of the zine