

## Learning Activity: Zines for the People!

**Frame:** Information Has Value    **Core Value:** Democracy, Access

**Learning Outcomes:** To create, distribute, and use information as a means to effect change; Use positions of information privilege in order to make information more equitably accessible and/or available

**Discipline:** Any                      **Class time:** Variable; multiple sessions are ideal

### Pre-assignment:

Read zines from

POC (People of Color) Zine Project (<https://issuu.com/poczineproject>)

The Small Science Collective (<http://asyang.wixsite.com/small-science>)

Queer Zine Archive Project (<http://archive.qzap.org/index.php>)

Explore Barnard Zine Library's "About Zines" pages: <https://zines.barnard.edu/about-zines>

### Classroom Activity:

#### A. First session

Bring zines to class for examples, if you have them.

Discussion of zines: What are zines? How are zines used to communicate? What kinds of communities use, produce, and share zines? How might zines make information more accessible or available in comparison to traditional modes of for-profit publishing?

In small groups, students will storyboard an issue related to their course (i.e. in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, students might create a zine on gender neutral/inclusive bathrooms; in Environmental Studies, students might create a zine on local environmental justice issues).

Librarian will move from group to group, asking students to explain their issue, and prompting them to ask what information they need to create a well-informed zine. Ask students what databases or library resources they would use to find needed information. Feel free to guide them if needed.

Students continue to work in small groups, finding information to use in their zines. [If you have limited time, you can end class here and assign finishing the zine outside of class as group homework].

#### B. Second session

Bring zine making materials: Markers, pens, pencils, scissors, tape, glue, stapler, magazines, and paper.

Begin class with a short discussion on the purpose of their zines: What kind of change are you hoping to effect? Who is the audience for effecting this change?

Have students congregate into their groups, and create their zines with provided materials. Before class ends, discuss how to reproduce copies and create a strategy for distribution.