



Zine making

Zines are DIY magazines that can be made quickly or developed over time, created by individuals or in teams. They can be used in individual, collaborative and participatory research and offer a fun way of introducing an element of creativity into a research process. This workshop introduces zine making and considers its uses as a research method.

By the end of this workshop, you should be able to ...

1. Practice individual and/or collaborative zine making techniques
2. Use some simple creative methods to work with your peers
3. Identify themes and connections between outputs
4. Understand how creative methods can be used in non-academic contexts

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Lesson plan

Read beforehand:

[How to make a Zine](#) blog post by Jean McEwan

[Covid Realities Zine: Reflections on our participatory research](#)

1 (5-10 mins). Provide examples of zines – pass round and reflect
Discuss Zines as a tool/method for participatory research (reference article: French & Curd 2022).

'Fundamentally, zines cross disciplines and boundaries. By the same logic, we argue that zines have the capacity to emulate this function as a research tool' (p. 78).

2 (5 mins): Provide A3 paper. Everyone folds their booklets.
Remind of key questions (see TILT section on global challenges): (e.g. What is the relationship between wealth and education opportunities?). How could you use your zine to explore this topic?

3 (10 mins): write, draw, collage, etc. Assemble collection of material for your zines
Provide pile of magazines, postcards, maps, etc. (students could be encouraged to bring some along with them)

4 (15 mins): in pairs – share your materials and begin to assemble your zines
Provide glue, scissors, etc.

An effective structure at this point is for participants to follow a timed prompt before passing the zine to the next person. This leads to co-created zines. Prompts could include:

- Create a map
- Write a list
- Draw a picture with your left hand
- Write a poem about your topic

Each page is then created by a different person in a different mode.

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5 (10 mins): 'show and tell'. Note that students will only have made a start. How do they want them to develop? Encourage them to complete in their own time and to copy and share with peers.

6 (5-10 mins): reflect on the process and how it might connect with other methods (data collection and analysis in particular). How can data be used, illustrated and explained in zine format?

Key reading

French, J., & Curd, E. (2022). Zining as artful method: Facilitating zines as participatory action research within art museums. *Action Research*, 20(1), 77–95.

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