

What is a zine?

“A zine is a self-published, non-commercial print-work that is typically produced in small, limited batches. Zines are created and bound in many DIY ways, but traditionally editions are easily reproduced—often by crafting an original “master flat,” and then photocopying, folding, and stapling the pages into simple pamphlets. Zines may also be sewn, taped, glued—or even exist in unbound and other non-folio formats. The main rule is that there are no rules!” (The Bindery, 2020).



(Knight, 2021)

What should my zine be about?

Zines can be:

Personal

Political

Academic

Educational

Informative

Poetic

Illustrative

Experimental

Abstract

& so much more!

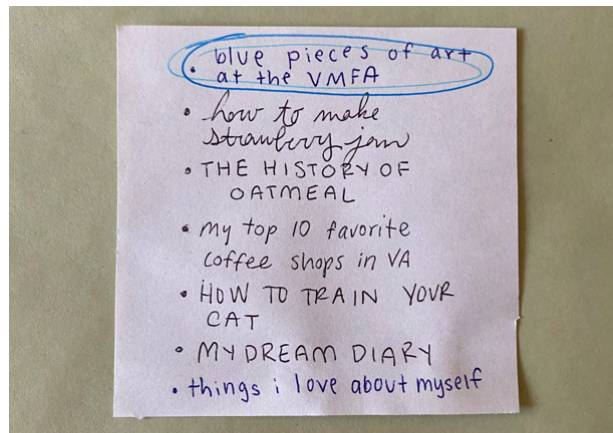
Your zine can be about literally anything!

How do I make a zine?

There are infinite ways to create a zine, but if you'd like to start with a basic format, just follow the steps below!

In this tutorial we are going to make a "magic zine" which is a small, 6 page zine, with a front and back cover.

1. Pick your topic.



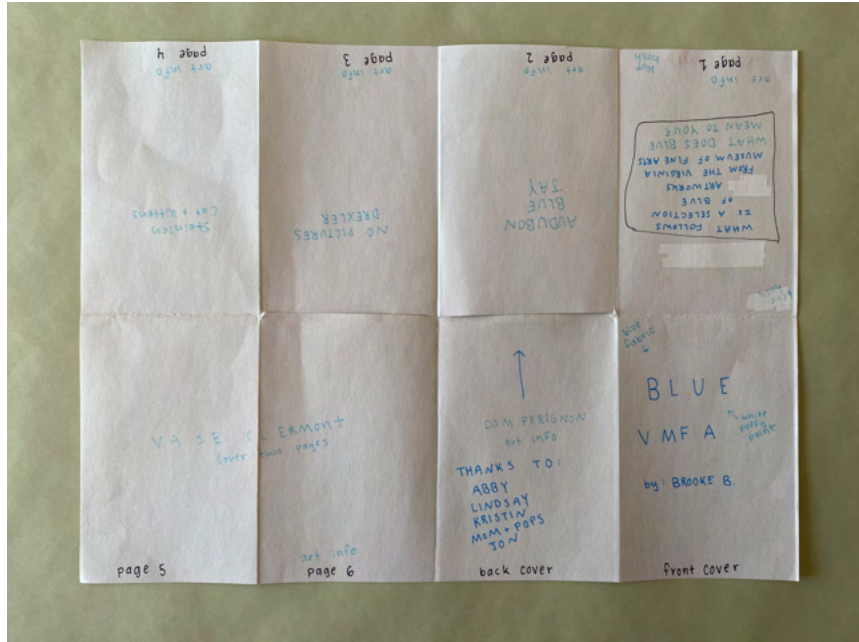
As previously stated, your zine can be about anything. The only limit is your imagination!

2. Create an outline of your zine.

Once you decide what you'd like to focus on, take some time to make a rough draft of your zine.

The paper you are going to use to make your zine. It will be useful to do step five (fold your paper) before making your draft so that you can better visualize your zine!

Take a look at the example draft below.



3. Gather your materials.

The supplies used to make zines are as varied as the topics they cover. Here are some of the mediums we used for this example.



4. Build your zine.

Let your creativity blossom and shine!

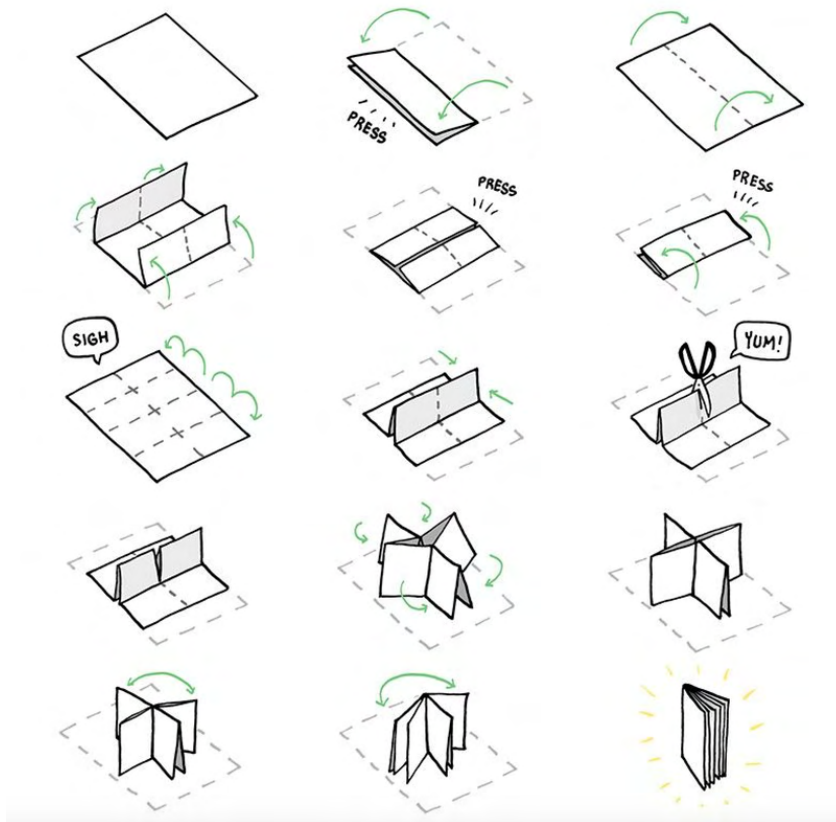
You can make your zine while your paper is flat or you can fold it first and work with it in book form.

Here's our completed zine before folding!



5. Fold your paper.

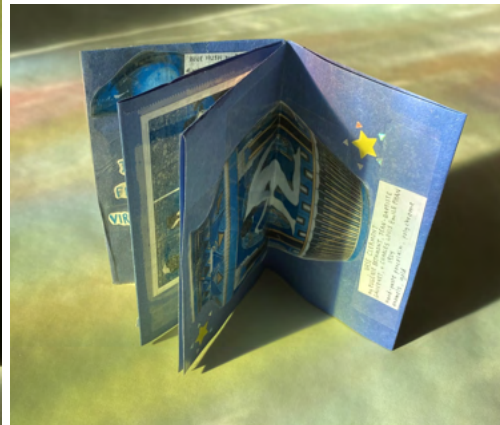
Once you have completed your zine, if you have not already done so, fold your paper using the “magic zine” method, which is detailed in the diagram below.



Tallis A-Level Photography

6. Share your zine!

You can now scan and make copies of your zine to distribute! If you don't want to distribute or share your zine, that's okay too! You now have a one-of-a-kind work of art that you can enjoy and be proud of.



In Conclusion:

Making zines is an awesome and easy way to amplify your voice or the voices of those you wish to represent. They can be a way to distribute information. They can be a moving exercise in self-expression. They can take so many forms and have endless uses.

We hope you have enjoyed this short tutorial in zine making, and that it will be a tool you can use to create and share zines with those around you.

For additional information on zines and their history, feel free to visit the sources listed below:

Margaret R. and Robert M. Freeman Library has a large zine collection filled with Virginia Artists that you can view by appointment!

To make an appointment to view the VMFA Library zine collection (or to learn how to submit a zine that you created to be added to the library collection) email VMFA Library at library@vmfa.museum.

Works Cited:

Knight, Rosie. "How Zine Libraries Are Highlighting Marginalized Voices." BuzzFeed News, 4 Oct. 2021, www.buzzfeednews.com/article/rosieoknight/zines-libraries-marginalized-voices.

"What Is a Zine?" The Bindery, 2020, www.binderymke.com/what-is-a-zine.

"Zine Making Resources." Tallis A-Level Photography, tallisalevelphoto.weebly.com/zine-making-resources.html. Accessed 11 Dec. 2021.