

Underground Network

Assignment Sheet: Zine Project

Defined as a small-circulation, self-published magazine, the zine is one of the most well-known examples of underground printing. As an aggregate of original and appropriated texts, zines can address a wide-range of topics from animal rights to music appreciation. But they also often feature a number of formal elements, including title page, manifesto, observational essays, interpretive essays, creative writing, interviews, biographical statements, artwork, bibliographies, journal entries, unbridled rants and found texts. In contrast to mainstream magazines and formal writing, zines invite their authors and editors to set aside impartiality and write with a personal voice and emotional impartiality: enthusiasm and rage. You will receive a critical overview of the zine form in class readings.

Your zine must have all of the following content elements:

Title Page: original, creative title and original or appropriated artwork

Manifesto: 300-word minimum, explains the topic and purpose of the zine.

Observational Essay: 500-word minimum, addresses some feature of everyday life that relates directly to the topic of your zine.

Interpretive Essay: 500-word minimum, provides a close-analysis of a very small aspect of a work of art: a single line from a song, a short passage from a book, a single scene in a film.

Found Writing: No limit, select work created by someone else, which addresses your topic.

Biographical Statement: 300-word minimum, addresses how your topic relates to the story of your life.

Artwork: 3 pg. minimum, including more than one of the following media: collage, photography, online clipping, print clipping, sketch.

Bibliography: No limit, MLA formatted list of texts or materials relevant to the topic of your zine.

Original Creative Writing: No Limit, poem, short-story or skit that relates to the topic of your zine.

Rant: No limit, exclamatory statement offering an intense critique of something or someone related to the topic of the zine.

In addition to content requirements, your zine must also meet a number of format requirements. Because this class addresses questions of media technology, your zine must make use of the following methods: Handwriting, Typewriting, Mimeographing, Letterpress Printing, Photocopying, Word Processing.

I have ordered vintage typewriters for this class, which you will be able to use in producing your zine. After Spring Break, you will receive training in letterpress printing and mimeographic reproduction.

Outside of these requirements, you are encouraged to experiment with the construction of your zine. There are a number of web-series that offer an overview of how to bind your zine. You are free to use whatever means you think best serves your project.

You will submit your final zine as part of the culminating class exhibit at the end of the class.

The assignment will be assessed on the following grounds:

- o Written Communication: Using written formats to share information with others in a clear, concise, and persuasive manner.
- o Idea Generation: Developing new and/or novel ideas through critical thinking and creative processes that address issues and/or lead to change.
- o Summarize & Distill Information: Selecting, sorting and combining information in order to capture and reflect on important facts, concepts, and processes leading to increased comprehension
- o Overall Composition: Utilizing a variety of methods to construct a document that reflects a critical engagement with the training provided in class.