Using zines in the classroom for inclusive, creative learning

Katharine Terrell, November 2024

[Image: the word “zines” with each letter torn from the page of a magazine.]

# What?

* Paper or online mini magazines.
* Self-published, informal.
* Personal and political.
* Themes include feminism, racism, music, films and TV, food, mental health, almost anything you can think of…
* Style elements include hand-writing and drawing, collage, 3D elements, etc…

[Image of zine with wheelchair symbol, the words “It’s my choice”, a graph and a text box.]

# How to make

[Image of printer, tape, glue, stapler, pen, scissors and folded paper.]

# Why?

* Assignments: Active learning (head, heart and hands).
* Visual and tactile. Great for showing processes, timelines, etc.
* Resources: Engaging way to think about research and academic topics.
* Understanding non-academic perspectives.

[Image of heart made from torn paper.]

# Think about…

* Inclusion. Don’t force students to share personal experiences and think about power dynamics. (Mayorga &Capistrano, no year).
* Accessibility - can all students access all the visual and written information? Can they produce different formats e.g. digital, audio?
* Ensure students do not have to buy own supplies.

[Line drawing of person thinking.]

# Read more

* Aragon et al (2018) [Teaching with Zines](https://www.zinelibraries.info/running-a-zine-library/teaching-with-zines/)
* [Creasap, K. (2014).](http://poczineproject.tumblr.com/post/49385012362/meet-poczp-west-coast-coordinator-liz-mayorga) [Zine-making as feminist pedagogy. Feminist Teacher](https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5406/femteacher.24.3.0155)
* [Mayorga](http://poczineproject.tumblr.com/post/49385012362/meet-poczp-west-coast-coordinator-liz-mayorga) and Capistrano (no year) [Let's Talk About: Zines In The Classroom—Pros and Cons](https://www.tumblr.com/poczineproject/53116350336/lets-talk-about-zines-in-the-classroompros-and)
* Terrell (forthcoming) Zines For Creativity In The Classroom: Inclusive and Accessible For All? Journal of Perspectives in Applied Academic Practice.