

# CREATE A MINI ZINE

**Activity:** Create a Zine

**Theme:** The Activism of Black Women and Girls in the Montgomery Bus Boycott

## What is a zine?

According to librarians at the University of Texas, “Zines can be difficult to define. The word “zine” is a shortened form of the term fanzine, according to the Oxford English Dictionary. Fanzines emerged as early as the 1930s among fans of science fiction. Zines also have roots in the informal, underground publications that focused on social and political activism in the ‘60s. By the ‘70s, zines were popular on the punk rock circuit. In the ‘90s, the feminist punk scene propelled the medium and included such artists as Kathleen Hanna, who produced riot grrrl out of Olympia, Washington.

A zine is most commonly a small circulation publication of original or appropriated texts and images. More broadly, the term encompasses any self-published unique work of minority interest, usually reproduced via photocopier. A popular definition includes that circulation must be 5,000 or less, although in practice the significant majority are produced in editions of less than 1,000. Profit is not the primary intent of publication. There are so many types of zines: art and photography zines, literary zines, social and political zines, music zines, perzines (personal zines), travel zines, health zines, food zines. And the list goes on and on.”

## Directions:

### References:

Video Directions from the San Mateo Public Library:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzOBPgMYqG4>

Written Directions from the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston:

- <https://www.icaboston.org/articles/make-your-own-mini-zine/>

### Step 1: Decide on the content of the zine.

- Focus on only one or two aspects of Black women’s activism during the boycott. Choose one of the people, organizations, or events discussed during class.

### Step 2: Gather your materials.

- Collect images you want to use and either print them or save them to your computer.
- If you plan to make a physical zine, gather a ruler, scissors, 8.5” x 11” (standard computer paper), and any art supplies you want to use.
- If you plan to make a digital zine, decide on the site you plan to use and create a canvas that is 11 inches wide and 8.5 inches high.

### Step 3: Setup your page.

- Draw lines in pencil to divide your paper into 8 sections. Use the illustration at the end of these directions as an example.
- Each section will be a page in your mini zine. Be sure to keep the orientation and placement of each page in the final version in mind as you create your design.

### Step 4: Create your zine.

- Let your creativity flow while telling the story of the person, organization, or event that you chose.

### Step 5: Fold, cut, and create the final form for your zine.

- Fold and cut your zine as described in the either of the references included above.

### Step 6: Share It!

- Share the zine with your classmates and discuss your creations.

## EXAMPLE PAGE

Keep in mind which box will be where and what the orientation will be once you fold it!

