

Science Zine Project: Make Your Own Science Magazine!

Total Estimated Time: 10 Hours

Introduction: What is a Zine?

A zine (pronounced "zeen," short for "magazine") is a small, self-published, handmade booklet. It's a creative and powerful way to share ideas, stories, and art about a topic you're passionate about. Unlike big, glossy magazines, zines are all about your unique voice and style. For this project, you will become a "zine-ster" and create your very own science zine!

Your Mission

Your mission is to research a science topic of your choice **from your textbook** and create a compelling, informative, and visually engaging 8-page zine that teaches your classmates about it. This project will test your research skills, your creativity, and your ability to communicate complex ideas in a simple and exciting way.

Project Timeline & Task Breakdown (10 Hours Total)

This is a big project, so we will break it down into manageable phases. It is crucial to follow this timeline to complete the project successfully and without feeling rushed.

Phase 1: Research and Planning (4.5 Hours)

Task 1: Brainstorming & Topic Selection (0.5 Hours / 30 Minutes)

- Think about what interests you in science. Look at your book and pick one topic.

Task 2: Deep Dive Research (3 Hours)

- Your goal is to become an expert on your topic. Use a **minimum of three reliable sources** (school library books, approved websites, science encyclopedias).
- As you research, gather the following in a notebook or document:
 - At least 10-15 key facts.
 - Definitions for 5-7 important vocabulary words.
 - Ideas for diagrams, charts, or illustrations.
 - One or two surprising or "WOW!" facts that will grab your reader's attention.
 - CRITICAL: Keep a list of your sources! You will need to cite them. For each source, write down the title, author, and URL (if it's a website).

Task 3: Outline & Storyboard Your Zine (1 Hour)

- Now, plan your 8-page zine. A storyboard is a rough sketch of what will go on each page. Don't worry about making it perfect!
- Fold a blank piece of paper into the 8-page zine format (see instructions below) to help you visualize.
- Decide:
 - Page 1: Your Cover (Title of your zine, your name, a cool drawing).
 - Pages 2-7: Your content! How will you spread out your facts, vocabulary, and diagrams? Each page should focus on one part of your topic.

- Page 8: Your Back Cover (Your "About the Author" section, and most importantly, your list of sources/bibliography).

Phase 2: Creation and Production (5.5 Hours)

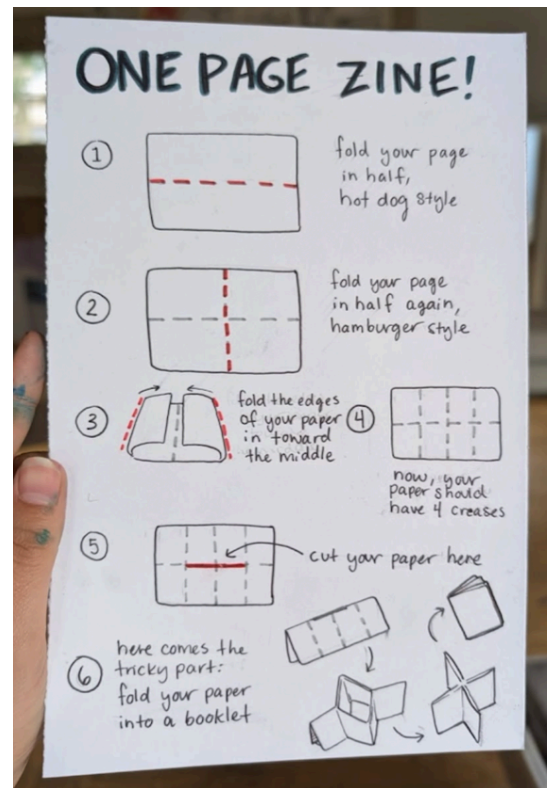
Task 4: Content Creation - Writing & Art (4 Hours)

- This is where your zine comes to life!
- Writing (Approx. 1.5 hours): Write the text for each page. Explain your topic in your own words. Make it clear, concise, and interesting. Define your vocabulary words.
- Artwork & Visuals (Approx. 2.5 hours): Create the visuals for your zine. This can include:
 - Drawings and illustrations.
 - Hand-drawn diagrams or charts.
 - Collages using pictures from old magazines (with permission!).
 - Creative lettering and titles.

Remember, the style is up to you! It can be cartoony, realistic, abstract, or text-heavy. Effort and clarity are what matter most.

How to Fold Your Zine: (see the picture as well)

- Use one standard (8.5x11 inch) piece of paper.
- Fold it in half lengthwise (hot dog style).
- Fold it in half widthwise (hamburger style), then fold that in half again.
- Unfold it. You will see 8 creased rectangles.
- Fold it in half widthwise again.
- Cut a slit from the fold to the center crease (only halfway across the paper!).
- Unfold it again. Push the two ends inward so the slit opens up like a diamond.
- Fold it into an 8-page booklet.



Task 5: Layout, Assembly, & Final Polish (1.5 Hours)

- Carefully lay out your final text and artwork on a single sheet of paper according to your storyboard.
- Use your best handwriting or print your text and glue it in. Add color and final details.
- Review your zine for any spelling errors or mistakes. Make sure it's neat and easy to read.

Submission

- Please submit your physical, folded zine in class.
- Make sure your name is clearly written on the cover.
- Ensure your list of sources is on the back page.
- Have fun and be creative! This is your chance to be a scientist, an artist, and a publisher all at once.