

Zine from former students

- As a writer, I have struggled with tone, focus, purpose, and audience. Zines allow me to play with these aspects of writing. I can be snarky and serious on the same page. I can use visuals to take advantage of intertextuality. I can shine light on several topics at once. I can have as broad a purpose as I want, or none at all, because zines are quirky in that way. As for the audience, the zinester community is huge, and they embrace the absurd, the creative, and the fun. Audience is no longer a concern as long as I am making something that I enjoy. I have permission to go as crazy as I want.
- I don't know what zine-making has to do with my future as a writer. I feel like zine-making is my practice as a writer now. In a very Taoist sense, I don't believe there are any goals I have to "someday" achieve as a writer. When it comes to my personal writing, my intentions are to express what it's like to be me and shed a kind light on the topics that I touch. Zines, in general, with their openness to possibilities and accessibility, feel like they fit into the Taoist philosophy of wu wei, or "effortless action."
- I think getting into making zines for this class really helped me as a writer. For a while, I have had a pretty gnarly writer's block, and the ability to combine low-pressure writing with art and engage in topics I really like was the thing to kind of push me out of that block. Prior to this, I've also had a really hard time getting my writing out there for people to see, which is just my own because I don't have any social media accounts or anything dedicated to my writing. So ultimately, I think zine'ing supported my writing goals because it's given me something that I really enjoy doing, I'm able to show to others, and it's putting me in touch with a really cool community that I'm hoping to get much more involved with.
- My whole experience at the Collingswood Book Festival and seeing my zine out in the wild for the first time was simply unforgettable. I had the most wonderful time and was struck with such overwhelming feelings of joy and love as more and more people picked up my zine and looked through it. Regardless of whether or not they bought it, just the fact that someone was interested in reading what I had to say was the best, most confidence boosting feeling in the whole world. Furthermore, this experience was also my first time ever showcasing my work to the public and trying to make a profit from it, so the fact that I was able to sell it for five dollars and make money without having to reduce the price, like I had feared, exceeded my expectations and filled me with gratitude.
- Most of the writing I do in my free time consists of short stories and attempts at novels, so zines were a welcome challenge for me. I will absolutely consider making zines in the future as a method of expanding my skills as both a writer and an "artist". I thought that zines felt like the most natural way for me to share my work, too!
- I loved learning more about zine culture and actually having a reason to participate in it. Zine-making taught me a lot about patience, letting go of perfectionism, and the art of

trying things over and over again. In the end, I produced a zine that fulfilled the message I wanted to share while touching on a lot of the classic zine elements I wanted to include.

- While I don't think I'll be switching my ambitions over to full-time zine making, I will take everything from this experience and use it in my journey as a writer. Before now, self publishing seemed like a daunting task, but the simplicity of making something and handing it out in a crowd is oddly comforting. This crude little zine has been a great step on my path as a writer.
- I learned a lot through this process. I learned how to format something like a book through adobe, after I did the original design in Canva (which I'm used to and feel is way more intuitive. My goal after I graduate is to self publish a poetry chapbook so it's important that I understand how to format for print. I also learned how to create an ebook. It was in general, so gratifying to see my work in print, even if I printed it myself. It was good practice, looking at writing as an artist and making artistic choices within my writing that I might not have made if there wasn't a visual element. I loved hearing feedback from people at the book festival and friends who are so supportive and bought copies from me. With my few extras, I am going to try to continue to sell them and get more comfortable sharing my work. I used to hide my work from literally everyone, especially the personal stuff. So sharing this really personal zine with people was hard but was ultimately worth it. I surprised myself by creating a zine that was true to my vision.
- At the time of my first zine, I was way too hung up on making it look "professional" or "artistic". I also wasn't aware of the scope of the community that still bands around zine making. This time around, I learned much more about the DIY aspect of it, as well as the freedom that the genre affords. I was able to put this into practice by simply allowing myself to have fun with the concept—to be a little ridiculous or irreverent, and to let that sentiment come through to the readers.
- I absolutely loved this unit of our Self Publishing course. I went into it generally blind considering that I had never made a zine before and had heard/known very little about zines in general before I took this class. That said, I was pleasantly surprised by the complete looseness of the zine making process. You can make zines about anything you want in any way you want with pretty much no restrictions besides formatting and legal restrictions.
- Though I have been a creative writing major for two years now, I never heard of the word zine let alone zines as a form of writing. My impression of them at first was that they were somewhat childish due to their lack of rubrics and structure. After reading a lot of them though, I realized that that is the entire point of zines. Many rules we have established in art have hindered creativity because they restrict the mind from creating new ideas. Zines are one of the first forms of art I've seen where the creator is able to let out whatever they want on paper, not feel shame and somehow still make it a very entertaining piece.
- This was my first time ever putting my writing out for sale. I've shared my writing for a while, with family and close friends first and on social media accounts secondary. So

having other people perceive my work wasn't exactly a new concept, but having other people decide to spend money on my work was. It's a whole different feeling when you're told that somebody saw something you not only wrote, but assembled from the ground up, and decided to spend their money on it. That feels like a committed relationship there... and I sold five for \$5 each. Wow.

- While I wasn't at the Collingswood Book Festival, I did take the initiative to leave my zines throughout the buildings I visited. The one I left in Wilson stayed there, and got defaced, but the ones I left in the Enterprise building were picked up and enjoyed. I used my full name on the cover, and my full name is in my Instagram page, so the person who found it, found me and told me about how much they enjoyed my work, and that they were showing it to their friends. I will continue to carry them around in order to put them in more and more places.