

'Zine

('zine= a homemade magazine)

Goal:

- To create a fun, informative and creative magazine made by youth for youth.

Have Ready:

Youth:

- To create art for the front and back cover of the zine, as well as decorate pages that have a lot of writing.
- To create pieces of writing, poetry, information, games, etc. for the zine.
- To research and dig up accurate information to include (writers could do this also.)
- To edit the zine once it's complete (organize page order, make a table of contents, and number all the pages once they are in order.)

Supplies:

- Snacks
- An example of a 'zine (look one up at teentalk.ca)
- Flipchart paper and markers (so youth can brainstorm and also sign up for the topics they are interested in writing/drawing for)
- A sign-up sheet to gather names and phone numbers/email addresses.
- Radio (to listen to when they are working on their pages)
- Access to some computers/printers so youth can look up and print images and info for their pages, and also type up their pages (if they choose to type)
- Glue, scissors, pens, pencils, erasers, pencil crayons, markers, old magazines (to cut up) and rulers.
- Access to a printer/photocopying place that will print your 'zine pages and bind them, usually stapled.

- Blank paper cut to the size of ‘zine pages (so youth don’t have to worry about making sure their page is the same size as everyone else’s—and so they can take blank sheets home to work on if they wish).

Instructions:

- Talk to youth and see if there is interest in making a ‘zine and choose and brainstorm with them to choose a theme or topic for it.
- Book an initial meeting time. A meeting to decide what topics should be covered within your selected topic.
 - Eg. For mental health, you may want to cover mental wellness, mental illness, ways to cope with stress, strengths, where to get help, etc. Have youth sign up for topics they are interested in writing/drawing for.
- Look into costs for photocopying to decide if you will have a maximum amount of pages for the ‘zine.
- You may also want to make a decision about what size you want your ‘zine to be- it’s a good idea to make ‘zine pages half the size of paper sizes that are easily accessible at your school. (eg. 8.5x11, 11x17).
- Decide as a group what the due date will be for completed pages.
- When the zine is complete, it’s fun to have a final meeting to ‘Release’ the ‘zine (aka a good reason to have a party!)

Helpful Hints:

- It’s easiest and cheapest to make zines that do not require any cutting after they are folded. For example, using paper size 8.5x14 would result in a zine that is 8.5x7.
- It’s sometimes best to have youth work on one page only (eg. A 8.5x7 sheet of paper) or two facing pages (eg. A 8.5x14 sheet of paper). Make sure youth know that text and graphics shouldn’t get too close to the center fold of the zine, or they will be eaten by the staples/crease.

- It's a good idea to keep text and graphics away from all edges and the crease of the zine to avoid image loss.
- Light blue looks like white to a photocopier. If in doubt, photocopy a page to see if it will show up alright. People may have to change fonts, bold things, or go over pencil with pen to get the desired effect.
- Including the front and back covers, there should be an even number of pages, with the total number of pages being a multiple of four. (eg. Four pages, would equal one folded sheet of paper. 8 would equal 2 folded sheets of paper, 12=3 sheets, 16=4 sheets, etc.)
- To see what the zine will look like, stack pages back to back, face to face, back to back, face to face, (continue). The face to face pages will be the two page spreads, and the back to back pages will be the other side of the page. DO NOT stack the pages when they are first finished, as the glue may be wet and stick onto another page and ruin it.
- Have the editor put page numbers on the pages once the pages have been put in order to avoid frustration.