

Getting the Word Out: From Gutenberg's Press to Zines

Subject: Art, Digital Graphics, and Animation

Grade Level: 9-12

Purpose:

Students can express their ideas about social issues by creating their own Zines while learning to use digital technology and understanding the historical significance of Gutenberg's invention.

The invention of the printing press had far-reaching effects on early modern culture and brought about social change. The printed word brought about lay education and the spread of ideas. One way printed material was used to disseminate ideas to the public was through printed broadsides.

During the American Revolution, Samuel Adams, an American patriot, printed broadsides that informed the public and inflamed the population. Today, the tradition of an underground press is continued by the posting of Zines (Internet magazines) on the World Wide Web. Zines first became popular during the mid twentieth century through fan clubs of science fiction writers. Today Zines usually address social issues and can be found on the Internet and in printed form.

Materials:

Internet access

Computer with Photoshop, Metacreations Painter, or other graphic design software

Scanners

Digital cameras

Lesson duration:

A three-week unit of study

Use one class period to introduce the history of printing using the Gutenberg Education Module.

Approximately three weeks to create a Zine with at least five pages of information and images.

Objectives: Digital Graphics/Animation 126.25

- (1 A) demonstrate knowledge and use of operating systems and software.
- (1 J) select and connect peripherals such as a printer, CD-Rom, digital camera, scanner, or graphics tablet.
- (4 A) access research information from different sources.
- (5A) demonstrate the appropriate use of digital imaging, video integration, and sound in documents.
- (6A) compare and contrast the rules of composition
- (6B) analyze designs
- (6D) distinguish among the categories of typeface
- (7D) use basic concepts of color and design
- (7K) Edit files
- (8 A) demonstrate the use of technology to participate in self-directed meaningful activities
- (10 C) define the design attributes and requirements of products created for a variety of purposes

- (11 B) publish information in saved files, Internet documents, CD-Rom discs, or video.

Activity:

Step 1: Present information to students about the history of printing using the Gutenberg Education Module. <http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/education/modules/gutenberg>
Discuss the importance of broadsides. Discuss Zines. Give examples of broadsides and Zines.

Step 2: Students will create a Zine based on a social issue of their choice based on the following criteria:

- Students will use word processing software to write an explanation of their choice.
- A Zine will consist of at least five pages of information and images supporting their social issue.
- Students will be able to acquire images through the Internet, scanning images and using a digital camera.
- Using software such as Photoshop, students will be able to create collages and add effects such as filters.
- Students will experiment with different fonts (typefaces), colors, and composition.
- Completed Zines may be printed or saved in the format available to the student.

Modification:

For special needs students you may decrease the amount of pages or images required. You may need to assist these students in selecting or acquiring images or with the selection of type or color or in the use of the software.

Student Product:

Students will have created a Zine based on a social issue that they are passionate about.

Closure:

Add Zine to their student portfolio.

Assessment or Evaluation:

Students have written an explanation of their social issue.

Students have completed the required number of pages.

Students have included the required amount of images.

Students use a font and colors that unify their collage composition.

Students add effects or filters.

Students save the work in the appropriate format.

Activity by:

Donna Maske
Marion High School
Seguin, Texas