

## Making Zines:

### Content Creation with First-year and Transfer Students

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#### NUTRITION INFORMATION

Traditional information literacy instruction rarely invites students to become content creators. Utilizing instruction-based art from conceptual artists, such as Yoko Ono and Sol Lewitt, we invite students to approach the library resources as source material, moving beyond the typical research paper. This library project is for students who may have already had an introduction to the library's resources or are transfer students. This can also be used as a scavenger hunt/introduction to the library.

During this exercise, students will revisit searching the catalog and searching for full-text articles. However, students will not be writing research papers. Instead, they will be using the catalog and article databases to find source material for their blackout collages. This exercise's end product will be a zine, with each student creating one page. Their pages will entail editing texts found in a "blackout poem"—redacted text using a permanent marker.

This recipe came about after working with faculty who teach the first-year class with transfer students. We realized that many students already understood the basic concepts of research in a college library. What

students needed was a quick refresher on college-level research and practical knowledge of their new library's logistics. This exercise allows students to actively search article databases and the library catalog as well as physically locate items on the shelf. They also will find out where other high-use resources are, such as photocopiers, scanners, and printers.

#### NUMBERS SERVED

15–20 students

#### COOKING TIME

90–120 minutes

#### DIETARY GUIDELINES

Through these nontraditional research methods, we encourage students to browse and embrace serendipity in research and open a dialog about becoming information contributors themselves. This exercise also begins conversations around authorship, appropriation, and the library as a source of inspiration.

#### ACRL FRAMEWORKS ADDRESSED

- Searching as Strategic Exploration
- Information Has Value
- Scholarship as Conversation

#### MAIN INGREDIENTS

- Physical collection
- Database with fulltext/PDF articles
- Black markers
- Printer
- Photocopier
- Glue
- Half-letter-size paper template

#### MAIN COOKING TECHNIQUE

Active learning, art making

#### COOKING METHOD

Remix Project, Student Instructions:

1. You will work with a partner on this project.
2. Find a piece of writing that pertains to the remix project you have been working on.
3. One of you will find a book and one of you will find a journal article.
4. Print or photocopy your one page from either your book or journal article. Scale each of your selections to fit on one half of the 8.5"x11" piece of paper provided.
5. Use black markers to block out portions of your partner's selection.
6. Glue your edited partner's text to the paper provided (it has a line on it, so pick a side).

7. Photocopy the page with both of your edited selections.
8. Give this to your instructor.

### **ALLERGY WARNINGS**

Either make front and back covers yourself or have students who finish early make them on the half-letter template pages. This will add 2 pages to your final count. Make sure the final number of pages is divisible by 4. In other words, if you have 13 students and you include the 2 pages for front and back cover, you'll need to make 1 more page. You could make a list of students who participated, a brief introduction, or leave it blank; it's entirely up to you. Take your pages and photocopy them double-sided. The only page where order matters is the cover, or if you had to add a list of participants or blank pages. We would recommend adding them on the inside back covers.

### **CHEF'S NOTE**

Students will be "remixing" their partner's selection during this exercise. It would be appropriate (pun intended) to have discussions regarding sources, remix, and appropriation. Artists and writers, such as William S. Burroughs, Penelope Umbrico, and Austin Kleon, who have used remix and appropriation, are good examples to show during the class session.