LA COUNTY LIBRARY

DIY Library Program

ADULT 101: PERSONA PERZINES

Recommended for Ages 12 – 17

Did you know you can be an author, illustrator and publisher all-in-one? Get on the perzine scene and create a do-it-yourself mini magazine reflective of you!

What are zines? A zine (pronounced "zeen") is a do-it-yourself mini magazine or booklet created for distribution. There are zines about favorite bands, social topics, hobbies, and so much more. The writer (that's you!) is also the author, illustrator, publisher and distributor of the zine.

Brief Zine History

The first zine, or fanzine as it was originally called, was created in 1930. "The Comet" was a mini-magazine about science fiction started by a group of sci-fi fans in Chicago.[1] The production of fanzines became a non-official, inexpensive way to circulate thoughts and interests on a common subject with other enthusiasts. Later the term was shortened to "zine."

In the 1960's and 70's, zine topics expanded to political commentary, music, literature and social issues of the day.[2] Advancements in the electric typewriter and accessibility to the photocopy machine made zine production easier and even more popular. With the rise of the internet in the mid-1990s, the traditional handmade zine lost popularity. However, zines have made a resurgence. There are many types of zines that specialize in topics such as music zines, comic book zines, photography zines, art zines, webzines, literary zines, culinary zines, and more. For this program, we will be focusing on persona zines, or perzines.

Perzines are a type of zine that mainly showcase the persona of the individual. **Persona** is how others perceive someone's character or how someone presents themselves in public. [3] A perzine can be used to write about personal experiences, thoughts, or ideas from everyday life. It's more personal than a regular zine (**per**sonal + **zine** = perzine) and tells something about you… your likes, dislikes, feelings, hopes, and much more. It can contain pictures, art, photos,

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[1] "History." *Fanzine Archive*, Bud Foote Science Fiction Collection. Georgia Institute of Technology. http://fanzines.lmc.gatech.edu/history (23 April 2020)

[2] "A Brief History of Zines." *Chapel Hill Rare Book Blog.* 25 October 2017. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. https://blogs.lib.unc.edu/rbc/index.php/2017/10/25/a-brief-history-of-zines/

[3] "Persona." *Merriam-Webster.com*. 2020. https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/persona (23 April 2020).

text, drawings, stories, poetry, etc. Later on in this program, you will learn how to make a persona perzine.

As you create your perzine, be aware of your good qualities, know what you do well, have positive thoughts, and know that you can achieve goals and dreams. Reflect on yourself, have **self-confidence** (how one feels about their abilities, qualities and judgment) and **self-esteem** (how one values or feels about themselves overall; sense of self-worth).

Questions for discussion:

- What is a perzine?
- What is the purpose of a perzine?
- What should my perzine be about?

Activity #1 Exploring your Persona

Before you make your persona perzine, you'll need to reflect on your persona. As we already learned, your persona is the way you present yourself to others. People often wear different masks or put on different faces, depending on the norms of the social situation they are in. Masks provide a comforting way to hide our true selves and fit in, serving as a protective barrier to avoid getting hurt. Yet, being your true self can be amazing to others! Reflect on your goals and aspirations (your inner self) then connect that to your persona (how to present that to the world).

Think about:

- What you are thankful for.
- The awesome things about yourself.
- What makes you happy?
- Expressing yourself.

Now that you have had time to think about it, go ahead and fill out the **Self-Reflection Worksheet** below.

Activity #2 Making your Persona Perzine

Now that you have explored your persona, it's time to make a persona perzine. There are a variety of ways to make a zine. The style can vary in terms of size, design, material and construction. These instructions will demonstrate how to make an 8-page mini-zine from an 8 ½ x 11" sheet of paper.

Watch this YouTube tutorial from *The Oregonian* on zine making or follow the step-by-step instructions below.

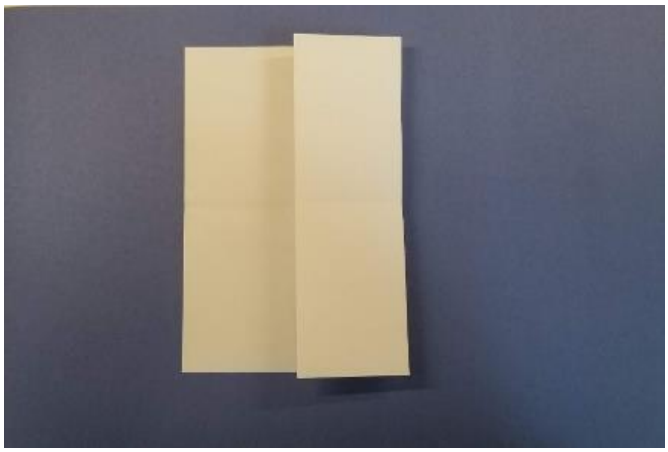
Materials needed:

- 8 ½ x 11” sheet of paper
- Pen or pencil (crayons/markers are optional)
- Scissors

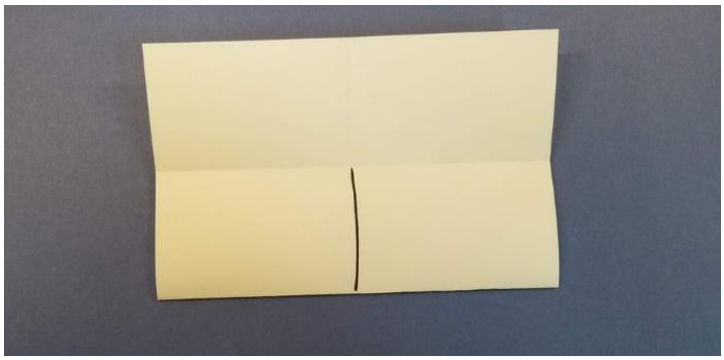
1. Fold a blank 8 ½ x 11” sheet of paper in half and crease the fold. Match the corners carefully, keeping the corners and ends lined up together.

2. Then fold the paper in half again and crease the fold.

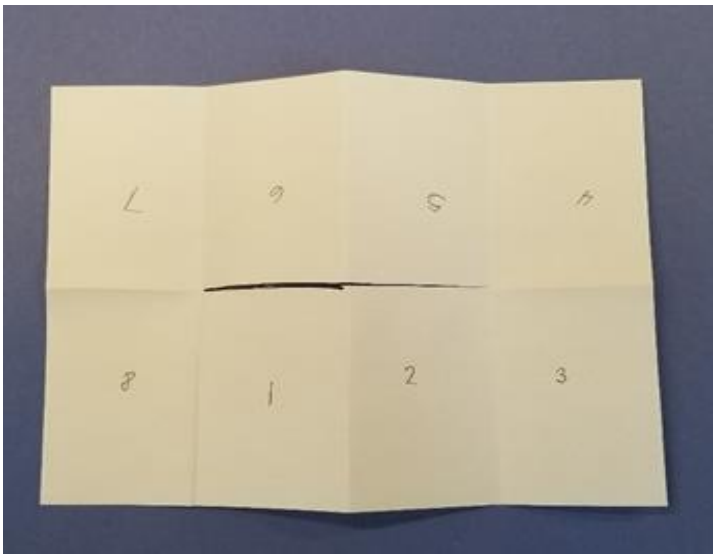
3. Fold it in half a third time. Open the paper.



4. Fold the zine in half along the short edge of the paper, as indicated below, and cut where the black line is shown.



5. You should have eight even panels. Each panel represents a page of the zine. Only one side of the paper will be used. Number each page lightly in pencil as indicated in the picture to the right.



Fold your perzine in half along the long edge so the cut is running along the top of your paper. Gently hold the edges along the short side of the folded paper and bring your fingers together to meet in the middle. The paper should crease and fold into a star-type shape. Gather the pages together to form a mini book. Ta-da! You have created your very own blank zine!

Populate your perzine with images, text, and ideas from the **Self-Reflection Worksheet** to help you get started. See the next page of this document for the worksheet.

This perzine is should highlight your persona, help you feel good about yourself, and remind you that you have talents, you are valuable, and that you should be yourself.

Recap (3 things to remember about persona perzines):

1. A zine (pronounced “zeen”) is a do-it-yourself mini magazine or booklet created for distribution.

2. Perzines are a type of zine that can be used to write about personal experiences, thoughts, or ideas from everyday life.

3. A perzine is to make you feel good about yourself, that you have talents, that you are valuable, and that you can be yourself.

For more information about zines and self-confidence, check out the books and resources at the end of these instructions.

SELF-REFLECTION WORKSHEET

Directions: Choose three (3) of the following questions to answer. This is for your personal use and will be helpful in creating your persona perzine.

1. Give yourself some good advice.

2. Write down three awesome things about you.

3. Write something positive about your daily life.

4. Talk about what makes you happy.

5. Write down your favorite positive affirmation(s) (encouraging phrases).

6. Write three positive thoughts to replace three negative thoughts.

7. Write about your goals.

8. Write about your dreams and schemes – your hopes for the future and your plan to make them happen.

9. Write about things you are thankful for.

10. Write about your best qualities.

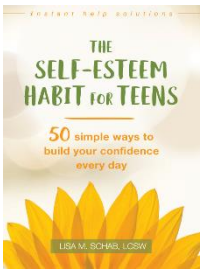
11. Talk about how to make the world a better place.

12. Describe what you do well.

DIGITAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE THROUGH LA COUNTY LIBRARY

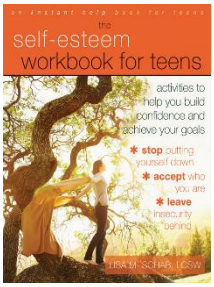
eBooks & Audiobooks

La County Library offers numerous resources that can help you learn about zines and persona. Here are just a few, all of which are available as eBooks on OverDrive and Libby:



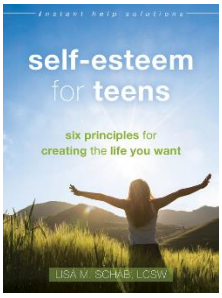
The Self-Esteem Habit for Teens: 50 Simple Ways to Build Your Confidence Every Day **by Lisa M. Schab**

Presents a guide to building confidence and self-esteem and offers tips to help focus on character strengths. Learn from mistakes, practice gratitude, and build healthy relationships.



The Self-Esteem Workbook for Teens: Activities to Help You Build Confidence and Achieve Your Goals **by Lisa Schab**

In The Self-Esteem Workbook for Teens, you will learn to develop a healthy, realistic view of yourself that includes honest assessments of your weaknesses and strengths. It will show you how to distinguish the outer appearance of confidence from the quiet, inner acceptance and humility of self-esteem.



Self-Esteem for Teens: Six Principles for Creating the Life You Want **by Lisa Schab**

Self-Esteem for Teens will show you how to build a positive view of yourself as you face the challenges of being a teen. You'll learn how to turn any situation – even the tough ones – into opportunities for change and being your best self.

The Vinyl Princess **by Yvonne Prinz**

Allie, a sixteen-year-old who is obsessed with LPs, works at the used record store on Telegraph Avenue, deals with crushes – her own and her mother's –, her increasingly popular blog and zine, and generally grows up over the course of one summer in her hometown of Berkeley, California.

Databases

- *Universal Class*. Educational courses taught by real instructors with topics on how to draw, how to meditate, the art of breathing, and much more.

- *Virtual Reference Library*. This database features eBooks on various topics. Search "zine" and dive into the many references available to you.

OTHER RESOURCES

- Check out this quick perzine making tutorial posted to YouTube by *The Oregonian*, "How to Make a Zine from One Piece of Printer Paper."

- The Scholastic Teachers blog has step-by-step instructions for educators and students alike in the post, "Zine Making 101" written by teacher, John DePasquale.