

## **What is a Science Zine?**

When is the last time you told a friend about an amazing scientific fact or shared a science idea with your family? Maybe just the other day. But how about also sharing science with someone you *don't* know and may never even meet through writing + pictures? *That is exactly what a "zine" is good for.*

- ☞ Unlike a textbook, anybody can make a zine! You don't have to be an MD or a PhD, you only need to know and care about your topic, and want to share this with others.
- ☞ Handier than a webpage, you don't need special equipment to make or read them. As a simple paper booklet, zines are small, inexpensive, and something you can make copies of & leave absolutely anywhere – from buses to bookstores.

## **How Do I Contribute to the Small Science Collective?**

- 1 - Use the zine templates and folding/format instructions in the following pages.
- 2 - Send your zine to us! If you send a paper version to:

Andrew Yang  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
112 S. Michigan Ave. Rm.605  
Chicago, IL 60603

- Or email and PDF file or other scanned version to: [smallsciencezines@gmail.com](mailto:smallsciencezines@gmail.com)

## **Questions to think about as you start making your zine:**

### WHO do I want to read my zine?

Who is your audience? Depending on whom you want to read your zine, you may want to choose a topic you think they will both be interested in and be able to understand. If you want your 6 year-old sister to understand your zine then you will need to use words and images she could understand. If you want kids and adults alike to find your zine interesting and learn something from it, then think a lot about your topic, word choice, and images that can succeed in doing this.

Of course you cannot please or reach every reader, but when you think carefully about who you imagine reading your zine and what experience you want them to have, it will really help you in making your zine successful.

### WHAT topic do I choose?

You can choose any scientific topic, from light bulbs to fireflies, global warming to gluons. It is up to you. Whatever specific topic you choose, make sure it is one that you are interested in yourself if you want others to be interested as well.

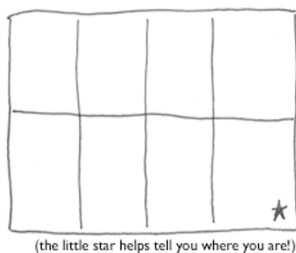
Do research to find useful and credible scientific information as well as imagery that can communicate the scientific ideas.

### WHY will people read my zine?

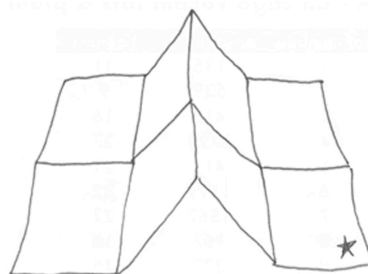
Is it eye-catching? Does it have an interesting title? Think about making it a comic or including interesting characters that can help tell the story of your scientific idea. Humor, is of course, also a great tool for engaging your reader while also communicating. It is possible to be both silly and serious at the same time. Use interesting and clear visual images along with text (your own drawings or clip art, etc.). Correct spelling, clear lettering, and of course good grammar are also important if you want it to be easy to read.

## a short guide to folding an eight-page mini zine

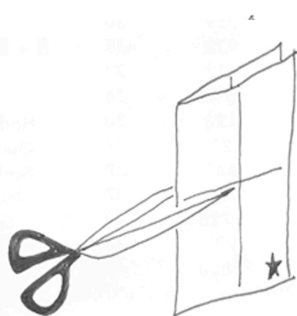
- 1** Fold a standard piece of white copy paper (8.5 x 11 inches) into eight even parts like so:



- 2** Now crease those folds so the paper rests like this naturally:



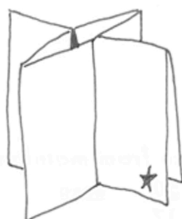
- 3** Now fold the paper in half as below and cut it halfway through so it looks like "4"...



- 4** Place the paper down like so. Now put your index fingers where the arrows are, lifting up while folding the sheet lengthwise over your index fingers...



- 5** During lengthwise folding in step "4" the middle of the sheet should buckle so that it can fold into this form naturally:



- 6** And now you have your eight-page zine! Notice the "starred" page is the front page of the zine. Voila!



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Keep a 5mm blank margin around the whole sheet (Marked off in gray on the template on the next pages). Anything written within that area is not copied by most photocopiers.

The numbers on the zine template on the next page tell you the final order of the pages and the orientation of images on the pages once you fold the zine up: "1" is the first cover page and "8" is the last back cover page!

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