

The Community of Zinestresses

Girls, women, and all others who identify as females are silenced within traditional educational settings. We are told what it means to be female and what our gender roles should be. These voices are not reality for many females. As a doctoral student in urban education I am interested in the true communities girls and women form to educate one another. There is a disconnect between what is being taught in the classroom and how girls truly feel and what they want to learn about.

Zines teach girls and women realities as other girls and women see them. Zines let the silenced voices speak. A creator of zines not only expresses her voice, she educates others. I want to explore those communities that educate. You do not need a degree in teaching to teach- you need a desire to share your story with others and a community in which to share your story. As part of a class on gender issues (and hopefully a longer study), I want to examine what zines teach the girls and women who read and create them; how zines empower girls and women, explore gender issues that society does not address, and create a world of social justice.

Please take the time to fill out my survey and return it to me. Answer some or all of the questions. If you know other zinestresses, pass a copy along to them. If you have any questions for me, or want to read what I finally compile, let me know, I'll be happy to get it to you. My contact information is at the end of the survey.

1. What brought you to create your own zine?
2. How old were you when you started?
3. How old are you now?
4. How would you describe yourself in terms of race, culture, gender, and socioeconomic status?
5. What city and state do you live in? If it is different from where you grew up, where did you grow up?
6. What other zines do you read?
7. What have you learned from the zines you've read?
8. Do you believe you are a part of a community because of zines? If yes, describe the community. If no, why not?
9. How have zines (both reading and making) empowered you?
10. How have zines (both making and reading) influenced your gender identity?
11. How have zines impacted you in regards to social justice?
12. Let me know anything else you feel is important about the community of girls and women creating zines.
13. Please let me know how to get a copy of your zine, or other girl zines I might be interested in.

Thanks for your time. I greatly appreciate answers to any of the above questions you feel comfortable answering. You can email me the answers and any other questions at

rebekahb@temple.edu, or snail mail it to me at: Rebekah B,
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