

THEME PROJECT THE ZINE



Each theme in the course has multiple readings and submissions responses. At the end of theme, there will be a culminating project. We will return to the conversations we have had, the readings we have done, and the writings we have laid down ... and then synthesize all of that in some way.

This project asks you to explore digital zine technology where you will work via word processing and images. It will look a lot like the syllabus for this class or this very handout. You will need to play with multiple fonts and color-blocking on EACH page. Each page should have at least three images/graphs/charts with the words wrapped around each image (i.e., no free floating images) with image credits (if not your own).

The content of your zine answers two questions: **What is the significance of the breakbeat? What do Black cultures teach us about technology and society?** The writing that you have already done in your submissions and in-class can feed right into this project. It is not plagiarism in this class if you cut and paste right from your previous writings. Treat all of that as drafts leading up to the theme project. **500 words is your MAXIMUM for the zine.** The words can't be the only things that do the talking in this project.

In the ideal, this project won't feel like a chore. It will feel like putting together all of your ideas in a low-stress and creative way. Try and have some fun with it.

Your Zine 2025 Topic

**What is the significance of the breakbeat?
What do black cultures teach us about
technology and society?**

Project Due Date: Monday, February 3 (in class)

Your Point-Spread for a DIGITAL ZINE (5 points)

Expectations	Check
1. I have created an interesting cover page (that takes up the first page in its entirety) with a clear and interesting title using “academic style” (sexy phrase: description). I experiment with word/writing style. My choices of color and lay-out are interesting. I do not have free-floating images or white space--- space is a premium so I fill every gap.	
2. I did something creative as my response to the questions: What is the significance of the breakbeat? What do Black cultures teach us about technology and society? My zine doesn’t look like an alphabetic essay and I get my points across in an interesting and creative way (<i>500 words is the maximum</i>). My zine is at least 4 pages long (this includes the cover and bibliography). I make sure every page is full page and has least 3 images/graphs/charts. Each image is right- or left-justified (there is no image free-floating with no words wrapped around it). My zine doesn’t look cartoon-y or juvenile; I am making a statement with design! I gave credit to each image. I play with fonts, sizes, etc. <i>I remember accessibility</i> : the words are big enough to read; if I use a dark background, I use very light lettering.	
3. I did something creative as my reaction to one essay or video on the course website for theme unit #1: Breakbeat . I have made explicit connections to at least one course reading (video or essay) in my zine. I get my points across in an interesting and creative way. My ideas and politics on the breakbeat, Black cultures, and technology are clear and obvious in the way that I discuss the essay or video. I introduce the authors (using their full name) as if talking to someone not in the class and who has never heard of the author.	
4. I have copy-edited and proofread my work. I come to class on the due date with a digital version of my project ready to share with peers (even if I don’t really like my work or don’t feel like it is finished). I upload a PDF to D2L of my zine. ***If I used canva or google slides to create this zine, I submit a weblink on D2L also to my pages with EDITOR ACCESS.	
5. Somehow, somewhere, I have included bibliographic information about any and every video or essay that I use. I have also listed somehow, somewhere the sources of every image that I have used.	
Total Points (this project accounts for 5 points of the final grade’s 100 points)	

Points Translation (Roughly): 5 points: A

4 points: B

3 points: C

1-2 points: Failing

notes and ideas

good luck!

Zine

A **zine** (/zi:n/ ZEEN; short for magazine or fanzine) is a small-circulation self-published work of original or appropriated texts and images, usually reproduced via a copy machine. Zines are the product of either a single person or of a very small group and are popularly photocopied into physical prints for circulation. (c/o wikipedia)

For examples, go to digirhetorics.org. There you will see the main page, “Breakbeat.” Find the subpage called: “Making a Zine.” These samples are meant as an inspiration, not as a blueprint!