



I want to generate a sense of hope and celebration

Bring all of the above (your brainstorming and identified material from steps A-C) to the seminar.

Finally, identify at least one case, report, or set of statistics from the course that generates a sense of hopelessness.

C.

Now brainstorm at least 5 things you have encountered in the course that gives you a sense of hope. Again, collect images/quotes/songs/social media posts etc. that captures the sense of hope you feel in relation to these components.

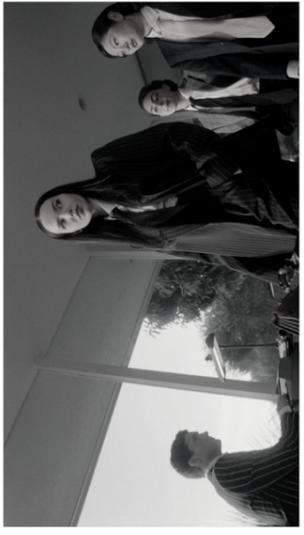
B.

Brainstorm at least 5 things you have encountered in the course that you think are worth celebrating - they can be as big or small as you want: from positive legislative change to a passage from a reading to a positive interaction you had in the classroom. Collect images/quotes/songs/social media posts etc. that captures why and how you think these aspects should be celebrated.

A.

I want to

TAKE BACK POWER



A Identify 3-5 examples from the course where the law takes away/limits people's power (that you want to take back)

B Identify the legislation and/or passage that explicitly articulates this limitation

C How are these limitations linked to wider narratives about law and/or identity? Brainstorm these connections.

D Locate and collect imagery/examples from wider society (current or historical) that capture the identified narratives about law and/or identity.

Bring the identified legislation/case passages, your brainstorm and collected imagery/examples to the seminar.

Bring to the seminar the 2 paragraphs you feel most strongly about and the associated images/colours/lyrics/poems you found or created. If you are happy to share, bring your brainstormed emotions too (but its not compulsory that you do).

For each of the paragraphs, brainstorm the emotions that come up for you. You can express them as single words (e.g. angry), in full sentences, or write out paragraphs of your own. Whatever you feel captures your feelings.

A

Find 3-4 different paragraphs that give rise to an emotive response (e.g. from cases, readings, lecture slides, newspaper articles encountered in the course)

B

For the 2 paragraphs you feel most strongly about, find as many (or create) images, colours, song lyrics, poems that reflect the emotional sentiment you expressed in response to the passage.

I want to express my emotions

Collages

Letters

Song lyrics

Poetry

some approaches for expressing emotions in zines

Explore the everyday application of *Abstract Ideas*

A Brainstorm 5 abstract theories/concepts or aggregated statistics you encountered in the course.

B Pick 2 of these that particularly resonate with you - find and print a passage that explains the theory or a reference that includes the statistic.

C For these two examples, write a short narrative (1 paragraph) of specific experience(s) in your life that captures why you find the theory or statistic relatable. You might share these stories with your peers, so only write about/include what you are comfortable with.

D Find or create images/colours/lyrics/poems that reflect the lived experiences you wrote down. It doesn't have to be literal - e.g. it could be the song you gravitate towards to feel empowered more generally (for me it is Rihanna).

E Bring to the seminar the passages that explain the theory/the statistic, your paragraphs on the link to your lived experience, and the associated images/colours/lyrics/poems you found or created.

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* Seminar tasks *
CHECK LIST

- Complete pre-seminar survey
- Read info on what will happen to your zines
- Do seminar reading
- Look at zine examples
- Pick the zine approach you want to do
- Complete the tasks for your chosen approach
- Print/collect any passages/info/images your zine approach asks you to bring to class
- Bring an image to add to the zine cover
- Write a sentence about what you want to take away from LGS
- Bring any arts & crafts material you want to

* Seminar tasks *
TASK A

Brainstorm 5 things that you encountered in the course that you think are absurd (put another way, what made you think 'this can't be real!?)

TASK B

Pick at least 1 of your brainstormed examples and:

1. Make 2-5 memes on the topic
2. Write a list of 5 ridiculous things that make more sense than your chosen example (e.g. pineapple on pizza makes more sense than the current law around x)
3. Collect images/material related to the 5 ridiculous things that you listed

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Step 2

Complete the pre-seminar survey on blackboard

Blackboard also has information about the research we are doing on the zines produced, as well as information about where the zines will be published.

Do the reading

Compulsory: Piepmeier, Alison. "Chapter 1. "If I Didn't Write These Things No One Else Would Either": The Feminist Legacy of Grrrl Zines and the Origins of the Third Wave" In *Girl Zines: Making Media, Doing Feminism*, 23-56. New York University Press, 2009.

Additional: Melanie Maddison *I'm not waiting Doin' it yrself, now: Challenging constructions of feminist activism in women's DIY music communities* (2004) - Zine available on blackboard or www.grassrootsfeminism.net/cms/sites/default/files/notwaiting.pdf

step 4

3

Zines developed as an alternative media so that people could publish ideas, images, information, and stories that were not expressed (or could not be expressed) through mainstream media. The DIY ethos of zines is all about taking what narratives end up being expressed and disseminated into your own hands! So the purpose of this seminar is to do just that - to say and express things that the standard legal form of essays/problem questions/debates might not allow you to do.

Listed are some things that you can do in a zine that might be difficult through traditional ways of communicating in academia. **Read the blurbs** and **check out some of the zine examples** (linked on the course reading list).

Think about the things you have encountered throughout the course and **pick the one** that you would most like to do - then **navigate to the corresponding page** in this zine/handout and complete the tasks.

Express Emotion

The inclusion of explicit expressions of emotion is usually frowned upon in academic texts: there is the sense that engagement with issues is meant to be 'objective'. However, to feel emotions is human - and the very reason why we *care* about the topics we are researching or writing about. Because there are no rules and no set form that has to be followed, zines have been used (especially by those oppressed and marginalised by society) as a way of expressing emotions - through poetry, drawing, raw first-person narratives etc.

Example: [A Trans Questionnaire](#)

Generate/express a sense of hope and celebration

The critical lens of academia, especially in discussing gendered dynamics, can often be disheartening. Further, marginalised groups often have their identity reduced to the characteristic of victimhood. Movements such as Pride, Black Joy, and body appreciation recognise that celebrating the self and others in your community - and expressing happiness, joy and hope - can, itself, be a radical practice. Plus, making a zine about things you appreciate (like a cute neighborhood cat) is just a fun activity.

Examples: [\(Re\)learning to love ourselves](#); [Ciccolina the cat](#)

Take back power

Part of the grrrl zine movement involved grls taking back misogynistic and homophobic narratives in the media, academy, law, the home etc. By DIY-ing the means of producing narratives into their own hands, they were able to take back power by challenging ideas about gender in their own terms. Contemporary zines continue to do this: broadening their focus to include intersectional approaches, as well as tackling anti-sex work and transphobic narratives.

Example: [The Feminist Burn Book on Rape Culture](#)

Explore the everyday, grass-root relevance of abstract ideas

Academic discussion often deals with oppression and bigotry in the aggregate or abstract, but it is in the day-to-day that this marginalisation is felt. Zine genres like perzines (personal zines) allow people to explore and express how sexism/racism/queerphobia/transphobia/classism impacts their particular lived experience. Through telling personal stories, or shedding light on everyday instances, zines can give concreteness to theories, concepts, and statistics.

Examples: [Why we don't "Just smile"](#); [WHORECORE](#)

Provide practical information

While academic critique & analysis is valuable in efforts to push for change, there are also people who need practical, usable, accessible information right now. Zines and pamphlets (the precursor to zines) often provided practical information about health, laws, and safety. But not all practical information provided in zines has to be about 'serious' topics: zines often include recipes, instructions on how to produce a song, or even DIY instructions for knitting a hat!

Example: [Know your rights because cops legally don't have to](#)

Laugh about the absurdity of it all

Sometimes we have to laugh about things or else we will cry. In fact, research suggests that humour is one of the most effective tools in staging a successful revolution (e.g see 'Street Spirit' by Steve Crawshaw) and has been as a critical technique in political cartoons for decades. Humour is frequently employed in zines to critique, convey information, tell personal stories etc.

Example: [Talk to the Scarf Zine](#)

Step 6

THINGS TO BRING

In addition to anything that your chosen zine approach instructions say to bring, please come to the seminar with:

- An image that reflects your experience of the course (it could be related to the content, your experience of being in the course, or an abstract image that captures the vibe - anything you want!). A collage of these images will make the front cover of the zine
- One sentence about what you want to take away from the course. A collage of these statements will make the back cover of the zine
- Any arts and crafts material that you want to use (maybe not paint, because...mess..but anything else you feel like bringing is amazing!)

And, lastly, remember that the DIY nature of zine-making means that it doesn't have to be perfect. Embrace the rebellious, slightly chaotic vibe of the zine creation process and HAVE FUN :)

Step 5



Turn over/ navigate back and complete the tasks for the zine approach you have picked.

Make sure you return to this page to complete step 6