

Zines are Inevitable!

Jeffrey Canino
Gillian Friedlander
Deborah Tomaras
ORCID 0009-0003-0351-2343
Margaret Roach

Abstract

Much attention has been paid to the effects of generative AI on education, with growing worries centered on the evidence of students who are using LLMs to cheat on their coursework. However, we argue that the proliferation of AI-use among students has only exacerbated what the American educational system has long been cheating students out of: the guided development of their human creativity. It's little wonder that living within a system and culture that demands rapid productivity and passive recitation of received knowledge has created students who view AI as a means of streamlining a workload that appears both perfunctory and meaningless. We advocate for a renewed pedagogical focus on students' creative expression. The inherently social nature of zines makes them ideal for promoting connection and creativity in the classroom. We highlight some possible components of zine projects that, even if not explicitly presented as "anti-AI," help counter its enervating and dependency-producing effects; instead, they decouple student writing from a focus on grades in favor of curiosity, multimodal communication, and self-expression. We created a digital zine with scrapbooking elements; we have included both a digital reading version, and one that can be printed. This zine contains our arguments, research, and practical suggestions for zine-based assignments.

Printing Instructions

To print the zine, please select the print version. Use letter-size paper. Print double-sided and flip on the short edge.

References

- Aragon, Kathleen, Deanie Adams, Jolie Braun, et al. 2022. "Teaching With Zines." Zine. Durham, NC.
<https://www.zinelibraries.info/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Teaching-with-zines-Rev22.pdf>.
- Buchholz, Katharina. 2024. "The Extreme Cost of Training AI Models." *Forbes*, August 23.
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/katharinabuchholz/2024/08/23/the-extreme-cost-of-training-ai-models/>.
- Butler, Sydney. 2025. "Running DeepSeek Locally on My MacBook Is Shockingly Good." *Yahoo! Tech*, February 10.
<https://tech.yahoo.com/ai/articles/running-deepseek-locally-macbook-shockingly-190014260.html>.

- Chugh, Aanya. 2025. "Zines: Radical Tools for Empathy and Introspection." *Greater Faculties* 4, Article 4: 17-23. <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/greaterfaculties/vol4/iss1/4>.
- Cole, Carmen. 2025. "Zines as Open Pedagogy: Fostering Equity in Knowledge Production and Dissemination." Poster presented at ACRL 2025 Conference, Minneapolis, MN, April 2025. <https://custom.cvent.com/7473937172574D83922896B076666C45/files/49dd16827d6a4ceeaba98b2d33ed6cc1.pdf>.
- Cooper, Lilith. 2022. "Zines 101." *Zine Jam* (blog). July 10. <https://zinejam.com/blog-1/zines-101>.
- Flaherty, Colleen. 2025. "How AI Is Changing—Not 'Killing'—College." *Inside Higher Ed*, August 29. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/students/academics/2025/08/29/survey-college-students-views-ai>.
- Fox, Violet. 2025. "Questioning Generative AI Through Zinemaking." Virtual presentation, Mar. 19. Posted Mar. 21, 2025, by Media Education Lab Webinars. YouTube, 46:40. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v oiWIElDpY>.
- Gibb, Lindsay. 2013. "Educating with Zines." *Broken Pencil*. Nov. 26. <https://brokenpencil.com/news/educating-with-zines/>.
- Goetze, Trystan S. 2024. "AI Art is Theft: Labour, Extraction, and Exploitation: Or, On the Dangers of Stochastic Pollocks." *FACt '24: Proceedings of the 2024 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency*. <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3630106.3658898>.
- Goldstein, Steve. 2025. "The AI bubble is 17 times the size of the dot-com frenzy—and four times the subprime bubble, analyst says." *MarketWatch*, October 3. <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/the-ai-bubble-is-17-times-the-size-of-the-dot-com-frenzy-this-analyst-argues-046e7c5c?gaa at>.
- Ingram, Noël. 2024. "Using Zines to Teach Literary Analysis in a Post ChatGPT World." *Teaching American Literature* 13 (3): 53–64. <https://www.cpcc.edu/sites/default/files/2024-03/taltp-winter-2024.pdf>.
- Jacobi, Tobi. 2007. "The Zine Project: Innovation or Oxymoron?" *The English Journal* 96 (4): 43–49. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30047164>.
- Klein, Ezra. 2025. "How ChatGPT Surprised Me." *The New York Times*, August 24. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/24/opinion/chat-gpt5-open-ai-future.html>.
- Leigh, Dana. 2025. "1 in 3 Students Can't Spot AI Misinformation, Study Finds." *TechRound*, October 20. <https://techround.co.uk/artificial-intelligence/1-in-3-students-cant-spot-ai-misinformation-study-finds/>.
- Lonsdale, Chelsea. 2015. "Engaging the 'Othered': Using Zines to Support Student Identities." *Language Arts Journal of Michigan* 30 (2): 8–16. <https://doi.org/10.9707/2168-149X.2066>.
- Mayorga, Liz. 2013. "Let's Talk About: Zines in the Classroom—Pros and Cons." *POC Zine Project*. <https://poczineproject.tumblr.com/post/53116350336/lets-talk-about-zines-in-the-classroompros-and>.
- McElroy, Kelly. 2011. "Teaching Info. Literacy with Zines." Zine. Iowa City, IA. <https://www.zinelibraries.info/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Teaching-Info-Lit-with-Zines.pdf>.
- Metcalf, Meg. 2022. "Introduction: Zines in Libraries." In *Zines in Libraries: Selecting, Purchasing, and Processing*, edited by Lauren Devoe and Sara Duff. ALA Editions.

- Morrow, Allison. 2024. "AI is hitting a wall just as the hype around it reaches the stratosphere." *CNN Business*, November 19.
<https://www.cnn.com/2024/11/19/business/ai-chatgpt-nvidia-nightcap>.
- O'Connell Whittet, Ellen. 2025. "Students Are Using ChatGPT to Write Their Personal Essays Now." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, August 11.
<https://www.chronicle.com/article/students-are-using-chatgpt-to-write-their-personal-essays-now?sra=true>.
- Perez, Sarah. 2025. "ChatGPT's mobile app is seeing slowing download growth and daily use, analysis shows." *TechCrunch*, October 17.
<https://techcrunch.com/2025/10/17/chatgpts-mobile-app-is-seeing-slowing-download-growth-and-daily-use-analysis-shows/>.
- Read, Max. 2025. "A.I. as normal technology (derogatory)" *Read Max*, August 14.
<https://maxread.substack.com/p/ai-as-normal-technology-derogatory>.
- Rubin, Daniel Ian, and Christopher John Kazanjian. 2011. "'Just Another Brick in the Wall': Standardization and the Devaluing of Education." *Journal of Curriculum and Instruction* 5(2): 94-108. <https://www.joci.ecu.edu/index.php/JoCI/article/view/101/pdf>.
- Saadioui, Zack. 2025. "GPT-5 and Hallucinations: Progress, Problems, and What It Means for You" *Asturn*, August 10. <https://www.arsturn.com/blog/gpt-5-hallucinations-progress-problems>.
- Sonnenfeld, Jeffrey A., and Stephen Henriques. 2025. "This Is How the AI Bubble Bursts." *Yale Insights*, October 8. <https://insights.som.yale.edu/insights/this-is-how-the-ai-bubble-bursts>.
- Sternberg, Robert J. 2024. "Do Not Worry That Generative AI May Compromise Human Creativity or Intelligence in the Future: It Already Has." *Journal of Intelligence* 12(7).
<https://doi.org/10.3390/jintelligence12070069>.
- Stipek, Deborah. 2011. "EDITORIAL: Education Is Not a Race." *Science* 332, no. 6037: 1481.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/27978079>.
- Thompson, Hannah R., and Rebecca A. London. 2023. "Not All Fun and Games: Disparities in School Recess Persist, and Must Be Addressed." *Preventive Medicine Reports* 35: 102301.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2023.102301>.
- Trout, Paul. 1997. "Student Anti-Intellectualism and the Dumbing Down of the University." *The Montana Professor* 7(2). <https://mtprof.msun.edu/Spr1997/TROUT-ST.html>.
- Walsh, James D. 2025. "Everyone Is Cheating Their Way Through College." *New York Magazine*, May 7.
<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/article/openai-chatgpt-ai-cheating-education-college-students-school.html>.
- Xing, Wei. 2025. "Why OpenAI's solution to AI hallucinations would kill ChatGPT tomorrow." *The Conversation*, September 12.
<https://theconversation.com/why-openais-solution-to-ai-hallucinations-would-kill-chatgpt-tomorrow-265107>.
- Yang, Andrew. 2010. "Engaging Participatory Literacy through Science Zines." *The American Biology Teacher* 72(9): 563-577. <https://doi.org/10.1525/abt.2010.72.9.10>.
- Zitron, Edward. 2025. "Why Everybody is Losing Money On AI." *Where's Your Ed At?*, September 5.
<https://www.wheresyoured.at/why-everybody-is-losing-money-on-ai/>.