

Unlearning the Internet | Zine-Making, Part II (21 Mar)

Your zine should engage the course theme, "unlearning the internet," using 8 to 30 pages of paper. This workshop helps you to get to there. By the end, you should complete this sentence in the most convincing way:

"My zine is called [title here]. It's about [cultural issue here], and it helps people to [unlearning goal here] by showing them how to [action toward change here]."

Stuck on what it means to "unlearn the internet"? See the course review I circulated during class.

Unsure what "culture" means in this context? Let's borrow from Raymond Williams and say culture is how shared meanings and values are produced. Culture happens through art and education (what and for whom is "good art"? what and according to whom should a grade 10 student know?) but also through institutions and habits (what do we repeat? what do we take for granted?). In this course, we've studied how the internet (as culture) is driven by habits and values, what assumptions people have about the internet, and how the internet shapes knowledge and everyday life.

Now it's time to make zines about unlearning. Here are few questions to get you started:

1. Which module from "Unlearning the Internet" most interests you? See the course review for a list of modules.
2. Describe the point of that module in one or two sentences. What questions does the module ask? What are its keywords? What does it aim to unlearn?
3. Describe in one or two sentences how the module corresponds with your interests, including what you know and care about (e.g., your studies, hobbies, occupation, culture, family, friends, and community).
4. Identify and describe an important problem or issue at play in the module. Focus on how the internet (as culture) produces shared values and meanings, and how your problem or issue either emerges from or engages those values and meanings.
5. Now that you've identified a problem or issue, what sort of change would you like to see in the world? What hasn't happened? What do you want people to do?
6. Take a small step toward that change. What could you teach others in order to get there? Don't forget to focus on the internet as culture.
7. How should you teach others to get there? Through instructions? Advice? Visuals? Humour? Storytelling? Your approach to unlearning the internet doesn't need to be technical.
8. How can a zine help you and others to get there? What's unique or effective about the zine as a medium and format? What could it prompt your readers to do?
9. Now fill in the blanks. "My zine is called [title here]. It's about [cultural issue here], and it helps people to [unlearning goal here] by showing them how to [action toward change here]."

10. Combine and revise these answers into one or two short paragraphs (totaling 200-300 words) describing your zine. This description should be your log entry for this workshop. The title of the entry could also be your zine's title. Thank you!