**Data Zine Curriculum**

**Big Goals:**
- To identify data as it impacts our everyday lives;
- To think critically about data;
- To practice storytelling using data;
- To examine a personal, civic, or national issue through the lens of data; and
- To create a Data Zine that documents not only our findings, but our process.

**Smaller Goals:**
- I LEARNED
    - ...a new skill, dataset, or resource
    - ...more about my community
- I MADE
    - ...a Data Zine
    - ...discoveries in data
- I HELPED
    - ...my community through civic data

**Delivery:**
This is a flexible curriculum. It can be presented as a one-day seminar, a recurring class, or as a week-long workshop.

**Zine Guidelines:**
Depending on your group, you might want/need to set minimum requirements for zine content. Example -

In order to be a Data Zine, each zine must include:
- A graph, chart, or some other form of data visualization
- A survey, interview, or some other form of qualitative data
- A map of some kind

**Short-term Curriculum**

FIRST STEP

- Get your zine ready
  - Which format do you want to use?
  - Fold your paper and find your materials
  - Recommendations:
    - Do not staple your zine until you've made copies!
    - Keep your original handy so that you can always make more
    - Leave at least a ¼ inch border around the edge of your page, so that nothing gets cut off during the copying process
    - Number your pages
    - Create a rough outline before you start, detailing what will go on each page (things like "map here," "chart here," "intro," "conclusion," etc.)
- Determine your topic
  - Can be the effort of a large group, small group teams, or individual students
  - Should be relevant to your life
  - Can be BIG or "small"

NEXT STEP

- Start digging into the data
  - Consult resources like the WPRDC, US Census, and specialized databases
  - Keep a data log, tracking your findings and where you found them
- Start compiling your findings
  - The first page of your zine might outline your topic, or the question you're asking
  - Your zine should follow the course of your search
  - Your zine should definitely reflect...
    - If your line of inquiry changes
    - If you get stuck somewhere in the data
    - If you think data might be missing
    - If you think data might be inaccurate
    - If you find instances of bias in your data
  - Zines should be creative! Illustrate! Collage! Go wild!

LAST STEP

- The final page of your zine might address any questions you still have about your topic, anything you found interesting along the way, and any conclusions you reached
- Copy your zine so it can be distributed and shared with others

**Long-term Curriculum:**

DAY 1 - DATA RESOURCES
- Brainstorm civic issue(s) of focus
  - Can be the effort of a large group, small group teams, or individual students
  - Should be relevant to your life
  - Can be BIG or "small"
- Explore national and local data resources
  - Find relevant data
  - Understand how and why this data is collected
- Begin work on zines
  - Why a zine?
  - What will this look like by the end of the week?
    - Artistic? Analytic? Both? Neither?

DAY 2 - DATA COLLECTION
- Examine local/national news stories surrounding your civic issue
  - Think critically about data representation and use
  - Compare this with your own experience
- Collect data from others through interviews or informal survey
  - Analyze this data
  - Do stories exist here?

DAY 3 - DATA STORIES
- Explore data visualization examples (*Dear Data*, Information is Beautiful, Earth Timelapse!)
  - What is successful? Unsuccessful?
  - Could this be misleading?
- Continue to collect data (interviews/surveys or through your resources)
- Begin to visualize data we have collected from resources and people
  - What will be the most effective way to present your data?
  - How can we best engage people with the data and with your issue?

DAY 4 - WORKING WITH DATA
- Today is a work day!
  - Put together your zine!
  - Do you want to present an overarching visualization of your findings?
  - Do you need to collect some more data?

DAY 5 - PRESENTING DATA
- Data in your world
  - What are people talking about when they talk about data?
  - How can you use the skills you've learned this week?
- Present your work!

MORE RESOURCES

Biel, Joe. *Make a Zine.* Portland: Microcosm Publishing, 2008.

Fontichiaro, Kristin, Jo Angela Oehrli, and Amy Lennex. *Creating Data Literate Students.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2017.

McCandless, David. *Information Is Beautiful*. New York: Collins, 2009.

Posavec, Stefanie and Giorgia Lupi. *Dear Data*. London: Penguin Press, 2016.

# CIVIC DATA FIELD GUIDE

## How-to

**STEP ONE**

### ASK A QUESTION!

- What's something you've always been <u>curious</u> about?
- Is there anything you want to <u>investigate</u>?
- Think about a <u>change</u> you'd like to see, or something that <u>confuses</u> you.

> Does my state allow early voting?
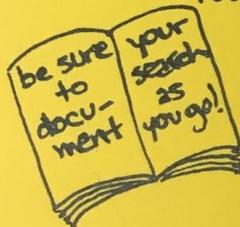
> who takes care of my city's parks?

> why do stoplights get placed where they do?

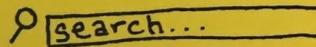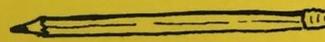> I want to know more about my city's animal control!

**STEP TWO**

### DO SOME DIGGING!

#### YOU MIGHT START BY:

be sure to document your search as you go!

- searching local database repositories...
- calling your representatives...
- asking a librarian...
- clicking around your city's website...

search...

???

**STEP THREE**

### COMPILE YOUR FINDINGS!

#### YOUR FINAL PRODUCT SHOULD:

- detail your search and what you found out...
  - ↳ did you get an answer? did the question change?
- reflect you, your process, or your community...
  - ↳ make this zine your own! go wild!. be creative!
- serve as a resource for other curious citizens...
  - ↳ what advice can you give to people who have questions
  - ↳ is your data presented in an effective way?

**STEP FOUR**

### SHARE IT!

- tell your family, friends, and teachers about your project!
- does your community have a zine library? see if you can donate yours
- go to a zine swap!

TW 2017