

Promoting Literacy Through Outreach

Cathy Camper: outreach to youth, including incarcerated youth

- with Laurel at MCL, worked with poet Leanne Grabel at facility for incarcerated youth (Rosemont)
- Tub: gluesticks, clipart, folded paper, examples of zines, tape dispensers, template for making a 1 sheet zine, pens, scissors (can be a problem in prison - blunt 'uns)
- usually do 2 hour sessions
 - history of zines
 - examples of graphic art - cut and paste with clipart, using scotch tape to pick up images from newsprint
 - talk about reproduction, distribution - some issues with these youth. Explain that what they're working on is a master. But talk about keeping a border, issues with color reproductions
 - bring damaged library books for kids to cut up
 - gives youth an alternative way to look at media, esp. For kids who are used to only seeing mass media magazines
 - try to get teachers to include it in assignments
 - new library priorities include: service to schools - adding zine workshops into that
 - emphasis towards underprivileged, needy, at risk kids
- How to address concerns about literacy - hasn't been an issue yet, but it could be argued to meet curriculum guidelines.

Kim Riot - Riot Grrls a Go Go

- coming from feminist background, very academic, lots of theory
- recognize effects of mass media on women
- 2006 - applied for Social Change Grant in San Diego. Required focus on mission statement: what is happening with the ideas that people learned in their zine workshops? Recognize community
- Zines Build Strong Culture Three Ways
 1. Literacy
 2. Creativity
 3. History
- Exhibits - e.g. At Mira Costa College in Oceanside - an academic setting, but a lot of people came out from the community
- Desire to see permanence - people take the skill they've learned at the workshop and take home. E.g. Working with LGBT youth group, planted the seed --> so workshops went on without GZAGG!
- Lesson in collaboration/networking!
 - See their zine on this
 - Give people the tools!

Top five pieces of advice for putting workshops together?

1. (Kim):

1. don't assume your audience knows what a zine is, or that it has a community at all
2. Dealing with teenagers – teenagers are there to socialize, you have to respect that and work with them in that context
3. Don't be afraid to vocalize your opinions/stance on things
4. Don't be afraid to ask for money! If you can get funding, DO IT.
5. Provide variety in clipart and images for people.
6. Don't be overwhelmed by the amount of participants
7. Tell people where they can find zines in their town: libraries, distro process, trading

Cathy

1. Minimum 2 hour slot, plus follow up if possible, even if it's not with you
2. People often ask “what do I do?” so have some examples of perzines or zines on topics. You can keep a backlist to help focus people.
3. Talk about the artwork! Sometimes if people work on computers, it's all text...easy techniques can make things look interesting.
4. Give them a sense of the potential to connect with other people – e.g. Dishwasher Pete was on Letterman!
5. With young adults – you may not know the ones you touch. Give it yer all whether your audience responds or not!

Laurel

1. Teens may not show excitement at all. You have to work through it and show your own enthusiasm.
2. Prisons, some differences – can bring up deep stuff for folks. Helping people learn that they have a voice that other people want to hear
3. Find the community builders!

Kim:

- zine about collecting, zine permanence – cheap preservation (Zine Capsule)