

WHY NOT, MINOT?

Your Guide to Magic City

A zine-making workshop

DESCRIPTION: By the end of this workshop we will produce a collaborative zine from start to finish, including contributions from every participant, about your hometown! Not any ordinary travel guide, you will share with your readers what puts the magic in Minot! It's easy enough for a visitor to your town to find a hotel or restaurant or a list of local tourist attractions, what's much harder for an outside observer to see is the true spirit of a place, what makes it unlike any other. You're going to show them.

Some research and discussion needs to take place before the workshop, but the bulk of what's included in the zine will be created during the workshop. We will focus on handmade and cut-and-paste techniques, but computers will be available for some aspects of the project. Each student will leave with their own copy and the zine will be put online in PDF format at a later date. Teachers will be provided with an unbound original to make additional copies as needed.

GOALS:

1. To provide every student with an understanding of zines and self-publishing.
2. To teach the basic skills needed to self-publish so that interested students have the knowledge needed to produce their own zines independently.
3. To create a zine from start to finish in three hours!

STEP ONE:

This can be done independently, but if you have class time I'd ask students to each bring a guide or brochure and discuss both the style and content of the writing. This reading will prepare them for the next step in a few ways: 1) Familiarize them with travel writing

styles and what kind of information to include when writing travel guide entries and 2) Help determine which places they want to include in their guide and which they will ignore.

1. Read the wikipedia and wikitravel entries for Minot, North Dakota, as well as the following external links: Minot, ND official website, chamber of commerce, and convention and visitors bureau.
2. Read the four articles on MSU's website about [Minot history](#). Make note of any interesting historical facts – like where the name and/or nickname of Minot comes from.
3. Collect and read travel guides and brochures from the library, chamber of commerce, etc.
4. Interview your family, friends and neighbors. How did they end up in Minot? What's their favorite thing about their hometown? Do they know any interesting Minot myths or legends?
5. In class -- brainstorm a list of favorite places in Minot. This may or may not include the places you've read about in the guides and brochures – it's up to you. Note: your favorite places don't need to be businesses or tourist attractions, your favorite tree or best hike or skateboarding spot are just as important. Is there one single place that stands out as the clear favorite? (Ms. Helde – please bring this list with you to the workshop).

STEP TWO:

1. Make your own Top 10 list of people, places and things in Minot. If it helps to have a prompt, then use the phrase, “The magic is in...”. The items on your list could be public, such as your favorite swimming hole or the best pizza in town, or private like your own backyard or your mom's apple pie.
2. Using your Top 10 list pick one person, place or thing to write a short 300-500 word essay about.
3. Draw a picture or take a photo of this person, place or thing.

STEP THREE:

1. Come to the workshop with your Top 10 list, your essay, your illustration or photo, and any interesting historical/interview notes you came up with. You may or may not use these materials for your contribution.
2. You're also welcome to bring any craft supplies you'd like to have to work with. We'll have all the basic equipment and supplies needed, so this is optional.
3. Be prepared to get right to work and have fun!