

MEDIA & 'ZINES

Awareness of the world and an individual's place in it is an essential step in becoming a critical thinker. The following resources provide information about current events, activist causes, culture, and political thought in ways that attempt to counter the messages of mainstream channels. These items were selected because in addition to promoting awareness of the world's problems, they discuss taking action in ways that are of particular interest to teens.

Magazines

WireTap Magazine (online) <http://www.wiretapmag.org/>

Ideas and action for a new generation

An online publication, WireTap offers news and feature articles aimed at socially-conscious youth. The content is organized into the areas of youth activism, education, war and peace, civil rights, immigration, racial justice, arts and lifestyle, and sex and relationships. This well-edited and diverse magazine welcomes contributions from young people in accordance with its mission of providing a voice for youth. Overall, this is an excellent source of alternative journalism for young people interested in politics and social activism. WireTap was founded by Altnet.org which features news, opinions, and communication focused on activism and progressive politics for a general audience.



rabble <http://www.rabble.ca/>

News for the rest of us

rabble is an online Canadian publication with a progressive political orientation. The content includes news, original feature articles, reviews, opinion pieces, and stories and columns from other media sources. In addition, the website includes active discussion forums, podcasts, e-mail newsletters, book discussion groups, and web links. The publication provides alternative journalism with a Canadian focus for those who wish to go beyond the offerings of mainstream media outlets.

Adbusters http://adbusters.org/the_magazine/

Our aim is to topple existing power structures and forge a major shift in the way we will live in the 21st century.

Adbusters magazine presents articles on current events, society, politics, and activist causes, all with an anti-commercial twist. Selected articles from the print magazine along with additional resources are available online. Published by the Vancouver-based organization Adbusters Media Foundation, the magazine promotes ecological awareness, social and political activism, and critical thinking about the dissemination of corporate and government information. Fresh commentary and analysis make the magazine very readable for a young audience, and the organization's endorsement of various causes demonstrates how readers can contribute by making changes in their daily lives.



This Magazine <http://thismagazine.ca/>

Because everything is political

This is an independent Canadian magazine that covers current events, arts and entertainment, and social issues with a self-described progressive viewpoint and subversive edge. A recent issue includes such topics as native theatre, how to dispose of old computers, and Canadian mining companies in Guatemala. The publication has a definite focus on youth, and its features bring attention to topics that simply are not covered in the mainstream media.

Socialist Action Newspaper <http://www.socialistaction.org/paper.htm>

Socialist Action Newspaper, a publication of the Trotskyist organization of the same name, is a monthly newsletter with editorials and commentary on current events focused on labour rights and more generally, global resistance to oppression. The website also offers background information about socialist thought and the history of workers' rights, reading lists, and a number of links to related organizations. In addition, Youth for Socialist Action (YSA), a subsection of the organization, also has a presence on the website, with a collection of links and background information of particular interest to young people. Although content like the "socialist songbook" and "Camp Class Struggle" are slightly puerile, the tips for organizing YSA chapters and joining activist campaigns are quite practical.



Monthly Review <http://monthlyreview.org/>

Monthly Review is an extremely well-established American socialist publication that features essays and articles on current events and political culture in the United States and internationally. Current and back issues to 2001 are available online along with selected articles of particular importance. MRZine (<http://www.monthlyreview.org/mrzine/>) offers additional commentary pieces and features on the web. While this is by not exactly light reading for teens, serious activists will be interested in this venerable publication, which has featured interviews and articles from such figures as Albert Einstein, Che Guevara, and Malcolm X.

'Zines

American Heritage dictionary defines a zine as "an inexpensively produced, self-published, underground publication." Zines are created online or in paper form (sometimes hand-written) and usually photocopied for distribution. Covering any topic imaginable and appearing in any format, zines are a perfect vehicle for self-expression, creativity, inciting action, spreading radical ideas, and ranting about the state of the world. Self-publishing bypasses the norms of the establishment, which is in keeping with past traditions of distributing radical ideas via pamphlets and underground newspapers.

The Book of Zines <http://www.zinebook.com/index.html>

Readings from the fringe

The Book of Zines is an excellent online resource for all things zine. The website includes articles, zine and alternative publishing history, zine libraries and directories, tips for creating zines, and an extensive reviews database.

Broken Pencil <http://www.brokenpencil.com/>

The magazine of zine culture and the independent arts

Broken Pencil is a Canadian-based magazine (print and online) devoted to underground art and culture. In addition to publishing original fiction, social commentary, poetry, and artwork, the magazine is a guide to zines and zine culture in Canada and the United States. Hundreds zines and e-zines are thoroughly reviewed, and ordering information is provided. A great resource for locating zines for all areas of interest and for indie art in general.



Hack Canada <http://www.hackcanada.com/canadian/index.html>

It don't mean jack if it ain't got that hack!

Hack Canada is a website focused on subverting government and corporate surveillance. The site primarily consists of links to news stories and websites relating to privacy, freedom of information, and government control. In addition, the site features an extensive guide to the genre of anti-establishment e-zines.



Anarchives

Free minds for free lives

Anarchives is a highly ideological zine associated with the Toronto-based Anarchy Organization and OAT/TAO Collective. With its mix of political discourse and calls to action, the zine is good reading for serious activists and critical thinkers. Zine issues from 1994-1997 are available online via Hack Canada (<http://www.hackcanada.com/canadian/zines/anarchives/index.html>) and, although it may harm the “cool” factor, Library and Archives Canada (<http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/202/300/anarchives-a/>).

Oblivion <http://www.oblivion.net/>

To educate about and encourage involvement in issues affecting youth



According to its website, “Oblivion started as a zine in 1995 and is now a nonprofit youth rights organization.” Past issues of the zine are available on the website, along with other articles and reviews. The primary focus is on teen rights and activism, with articles generally written by young people that touch on topics such as education, censorship, and age discrimination.

Additional Resources

Check out these sites and publications!

ZineLibrary <http://www.zinelibrary.net>

Mother Jones.

General alternative magazine (news, arts, science)

Dissident Voice. <http://www.dissidentvoice.org/>

News, opinions, links

Red Pepper <http://www.redpepper.org.uk/>

Red Pepper is an independent magazine of news, debate and culture for the left.

Yes <http://www.yesmagazine.org/default.asp>

Festuring positive community building activism.

Mute <http://www.metamute.org/node>

Mute is an online magazine dedicated to exploring culture and politics after the net.