FREE PROMPT DECK · US LETTER

The Zine Prompt Deck: 96 Ideas

Cut the cards apart, shuffle, and pick one. Every prompt is small enough to finish as a one-sheet mini zine in an afternoon.

INSIDE

- **96 prompts** on cut-apart cards, sorted into 8 themes, including two new themes for classrooms and group zines
- 12 constraint cards to pair with any prompt
- A one-page guide to shrinking any idea into eight pages
- A roll-two-dice prompt generator

These pages accompany *The Complete Zine Making Handbook* (Quillfold Studio Handbooks, Book 1) by Margo Quillfold. You may print and photocopy them for your own zines and for non-commercial classes, libraries and workshops. Please do not sell or re-post the files; share the link **quillfoldstudio.pages.dev/bonuses** instead.
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HOW TO USE THE DECK

Shrink any idea into eight pages

A prompt is a door, not a brief. The trick is to make it smaller until you can picture all eight pages at once.

Page	Its job	Example: "Benches, rated"
1 · Cover	Title, one strong image, your name	"BENCHES OF ELM STREET", a drawing of the best one
2–3	The hook: why this, why now	"I sat on every bench in a mile. Here is what I learned."
4–5	The heart: one idea per page	The top three benches, drawn and scored
6–7	Payoff, twist, or what to try next	The worst bench; a map so readers can try the route
8 · Back	Credits, date, contact, price or "free"	"Made by Sam, spring 2026. Trade me!"

THREE WAYS TO SHRINK A PROMPT

- **Narrow the time:** not "my family", but "Sunday dinner at my aunt's".
- **Narrow the place:** not "my town", but "one street, end to end".
- **Count it:** eight pages, eight things. Lists are the easiest zine structure there is.

Roll for a prompt

Roll one die for the theme (1 About you, 2 How-to, 3 Your place, 4 Fandom, 5 Ideas and causes, 6 Art and play) and pick any card from that theme. Roll again for a constraint card: 1–2 none, 3–6 draw one. Teachers can swap in the Classroom or Together themes for 5 and 6.

PRINTING THE CARDS

Print the card pages single-sided on card or heavy paper (up to about 200 gsm / 110 lb cover if your printer takes it), cut along the grey lines, and keep the deck in an envelope with a blank sheet of paper for the next zine.

ABOUT YOU

One ordinary day, hour by hour

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 1

ABOUT YOU

Ten things in your bag, drawn and explained

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 2

ABOUT YOU

Every place you have lived, as a map

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 3

ABOUT YOU

A letter to yourself five years ago

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 4

ABOUT YOU

The soundtrack of one year

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 5

ABOUT YOU

Things you kept for no good reason

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 6

ABOUT YOU

Your family's sayings and what they mean

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 7

ABOUT YOU

Where you go when you need quiet

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 8

ABOUT YOU

Small wins this month

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 9

ABOUT YOU

Your hands: what they have made

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 10

ABOUT YOU

A recipe that belongs to someone you love

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 11

ABOUT YOU

The first time you did something brave

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 12

HOW-TO

How to make your favourite snack

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 13

HOW-TO

How to fix one thing in your home

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 14

HOW-TO

How to care for one plant

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 15

HOW-TO

How to fold a paper boat, crane or hat

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 16

HOW-TO

How to start a conversation at a party

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 17

HOW-TO

How to plan a day trip without a car

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 18

HOW-TO

How to make a cheap gift

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 19

HOW-TO

How to run a zine swap

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 20

HOW-TO

How to get better at one game

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 21

HOW-TO

How to sharpen a pencil like you mean it

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 22

HOW-TO

How to pack a bag for a weekend

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 23

HOW-TO

How to make a meal from what is left

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 24

YOUR PLACE

The best free things to do in your town

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 25

YOUR PLACE

A guide to one street

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 26

YOUR PLACE

Benches, rated

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 27

YOUR PLACE

Local birds, trees or weeds

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 28

YOUR PLACE

Overheard on the bus

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 29

YOUR PLACE

The history of one building

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 30

YOUR PLACE

Shop signs you love

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 31

YOUR PLACE

Your neighbourhood in ten objects

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 32

YOUR PLACE

A walk, drawn step by step

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 33

YOUR PLACE

The view from one window, every day for a week

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 34

YOUR PLACE

Where to shelter from rain

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 35

YOUR PLACE

A map of your town's smells

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 36

FANDOM AND CULTURE

Your favourite album, track by track

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 37

FANDOM AND CULTURE

A character you would defend in court

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 38

FANDOM AND CULTURE

Films that changed your mind

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 39

FANDOM AND CULTURE

A game's secret history

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 40

FANDOM AND CULTURE

Fan theories, ranked

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 41

FANDOM AND CULTURE

The book you reread every year

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 42

FANDOM AND CULTURE

A hobby, explained for beginners

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 43

FANDOM AND CULTURE

A playlist with liner notes

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 44

FANDOM AND CULTURE

Comics you loved as a kid

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 45

FANDOM AND CULTURE

A love letter to a band no one knows

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 46

FANDOM AND CULTURE

A costume, from idea to finished

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 47

FANDOM AND CULTURE

The best scene ever, panel by panel

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 48

IDEAS AND CAUSES

One local issue, explained in eight pages

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 49

IDEAS AND CAUSES

A cause you support and how to help

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 50

IDEAS AND CAUSES

Myths and facts about something you know well

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 51

IDEAS AND CAUSES

Interviews with three neighbours

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 52

IDEAS AND CAUSES

Ways to waste less at home

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 53

IDEAS AND CAUSES

A zine for a club you belong to

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 54

IDEAS AND CAUSES

Questions you wish adults had answered

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 55

IDEAS AND CAUSES

A manifesto for something small

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 56

IDEAS AND CAUSES

Where your food comes from

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 57

IDEAS AND CAUSES

The rules of a game you invented

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 58

IDEAS AND CAUSES

A guide to your library's hidden services

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 59

IDEAS AND CAUSES

What your town needs, and one first step

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 60

ART AND PLAY

Eight pages of one colour

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 61

ART AND PLAY

A collage made from one magazine only

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 62

ART AND PLAY

A comic with no words

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 63

ART AND PLAY

A zine that is only a list

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 64

ART AND PLAY

A one-sheet poster of a pattern

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 65

ART AND PLAY

A zine made in 30 minutes, no edits

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 66

ART AND PLAY

Found poems from junk mail

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 67

ART AND PLAY

The same object drawn eight ways

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 68

ART AND PLAY

A map of an imaginary island

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 69

ART AND PLAY

Instructions that cannot be followed

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 70

ART AND PLAY

Eight pages, eight textures

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 71

ART AND PLAY

A zine you can only read with a mirror

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 72

FOR THE CLASSROOM

Explain one science idea to a younger student

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 73

FOR THE CLASSROOM

A historical figure's diary, one week

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 74

FOR THE CLASSROOM

Eight words in a language you are learning

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 75

FOR THE CLASSROOM

A book report as a mini comic

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 76

FOR THE CLASSROOM

The water cycle, one stage per page

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 77

FOR THE CLASSROOM

A field guide to your school grounds

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 78

FOR THE CLASSROOM

Interview a grandparent about school then

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 79

FOR THE CLASSROOM

Maths in the kitchen

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 80

FOR THE CLASSROOM

A timeline of one invention

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 81

FOR THE CLASSROOM

A poem broken across eight pages

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 82

FOR THE CLASSROOM

Rules for a fair group project

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 83

FOR THE CLASSROOM

What I learned this term

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 84

TOGETHER

A group zine: one page each

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 85

TOGETHER

A split zine with a friend: you start, they finish

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 86

TOGETHER

A pen-pal zine to send across town

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 87

TOGETHER

Our street's favourite recipes

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 88

TOGETHER

A tribute zine for someone's birthday

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 89

TOGETHER

A club's year in review

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 90

TOGETHER

Each person draws one hour of the same day

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 91

TOGETHER

Trade a page with a stranger at a fair

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 92

TOGETHER

A family tree of stories, not names

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 93

TOGETHER

A welcome guide for new neighbours

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 94

TOGETHER

Collected advice from people over 70

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 95

TOGETHER

A zine about the workshop you are in right now

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 96

CONSTRAINT

Use only black and one colour

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 97

CONSTRAINT

Words on every page: ten or fewer

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 98

CONSTRAINT

Finish in one sitting

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 99

CONSTRAINT

Every page has a hand-drawn map

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 100

CONSTRAINT

Make it pocket-sized: quarter-sheet

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 101

CONSTRAINT

No pens: collage only

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 102

CONSTRAINT

Make it as an accordion

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 103

CONSTRAINT

Tell it backwards, last page first

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 104

CONSTRAINT

Every page starts with the same word

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 105

CONSTRAINT

Bind it with thread, not staples

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 106

CONSTRAINT

Use one found object on the cover

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 107

CONSTRAINT

Write it for one specific reader

Quillfold Studio prompt deck · No. 108