

CREATE YOUR OWN COMIC!

INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES

This activity is designed to help you just get your students started with creating a short comic. It's deliberately left open-ended so you can add any instructions or details that you may need to include in the assignment for your students or situation.

For that reason there is no rubric included. We know you may want to emphasize and assess any range of aspects of this assignment depending on your discipline (English, art, history, etc.). To easily create and customize your own rubric, the website [RubiStar](#) can be helpful.

If you would like some more inspiration for your students, be sure to check the resources listed in the Additional Recommended Materials for Teaching and Learning section of this curriculum guide. It includes links to a wide range of more comics and graphic novels, as well as the artwork of Emory Douglas, the Black Panther Party's Minister of Culture.

The links included in the student handout for this activity are for two free resources recommended by the founder of [The Comic Book Project](#), which offers an outstanding, in-depth (15 lessons) curriculum for taking students through the process of creating their own comic books. There is a charge for the materials on their website in order to help them keep providing those resources and other programs to students across the U.S. and around the world. Contact them to find out how you and your students can get involved.

If you are only looking for free materials at this time, here are all of the links and ideas they generously shared from their *Creating Comics Resource Guide*.

VIDEOS

[How to make Comics/Webcomics from script to publish! | My comic creation process](#)

[How to Make Your First Comic Book \(An Easy Way to Start\)](#)

[How I make my COMIC STRIPS | 'Making It' episode 1](#)

[How I Make Comics, Pt. 1 \[Script/Pencils\]](#)

WEBSITES

[How to Create a Comic Book: Neil Gaiman's Step-by-Step Guide for Making Comics](#)

[How To Create A Comic Book](#)

[Create a Comic: How to Plan and Lay Out Your Comic](#)

DRAWING TUTORIALS

[How To Draw Comics](#)

[How To Draw Comics: Free Video Tutorials For Beginners](#)

[Comic Book Video Tutorials](#)

DIGITAL COMIC CREATION PLATFORMS

[Storyboard That](#)

[MakeBeliefsComix](#)

[Pixton](#)

[Comicliffe](#)

[Canva](#)

[Comicgen](#)

CREATE YOUR OWN COMIC!

If you're already a fan of comic books and/or graphic novels, then you know how powerfully they can tell a story. (And even if you're not a fan, maybe *Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story* has introduced you to a new way of thinking about this.)

Now you can give it a try, too! You're going to create a short comic about a story you want to tell. (You don't have to make a whole comic book; for this activity you're just going to create a few "panels" or sections to make a short comic).

DIRECTIONS

1. **Choose a topic or issue** from the news or history that you think is important and that you think other people should learn about. It could be an issue facing people in your own community or one that people are dealing with in another country. The most important thing is that it's something that *you* care about and want to help other people understand.

2. **Write down your topic/issue here. Note the TOP THREE (3) things you want people to know** about your topic. Think about what you want to **tell** people.

3. **Brainstorm and maybe even sketch** (stick figures are fine!) **AT LEAST THREE (3) characters and images** you want to include in your comic. Think about what you want to **show** people. How can you show people those main ideas you listed in number 3? Try sketching out some illustrations of those top three things.

Now that you have started to organize your ideas, check in with your teacher to make sure you're on the right track for completing the assignment. They can also let you know if there's a website or other program you'll be using to help you actually create the comic.

For some more tips and ideas about how to get started on creating a comic, you can also watch [this video](#). If you'd rather see tips in writing, here's a [webpage](#) with some good suggestions, too. (Don't worry about any software they mention! These are just to help you map things out).