



Center Cut Variation

The center cut variation starts out as an ordinary sheet of paper and folds down to an eight paneled book. Don't be fooled by the small size: It may fit in the palm of your hand, but kids can fill them with poetry, autobiographies, text and drawings about animal habitats, stories and more! Easy to learn and instructive to make, single-sheet books are an engaging introduction to bookmaking, presenting skills and structures that kids can use again and again.

Grades/Age Group: K-12

Approximate Time Required:

Prep: 10 minutes

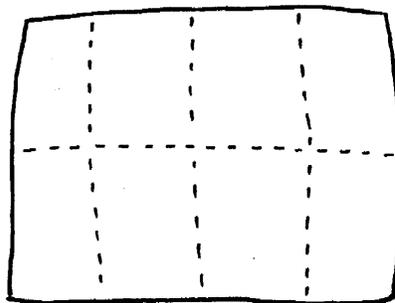
Teaching: 5-10 minutes

Materials needed (sizes and paper types can be adjusted as desired for your class needs):

1. Text paper
2. Scissors
3. Drawing/image-making tools
4. Cover paper (optional)

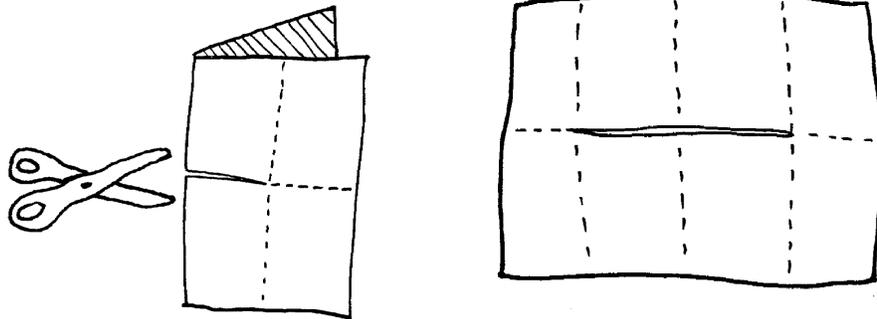
Procedure:

1. Fold paper in half lengthwise, or "hotdog." (If there is an image, the image should be facing out.)
2. Open it up, and fold it in half widthwise, or "hamburger." (If there is an image, the image should remain facing out.) Take the ends and fold them to meet the center fold. (If there is an image, it should now be hidden within the folds.) Open paper back up and there will be 8 panels on your paper divided by folds.

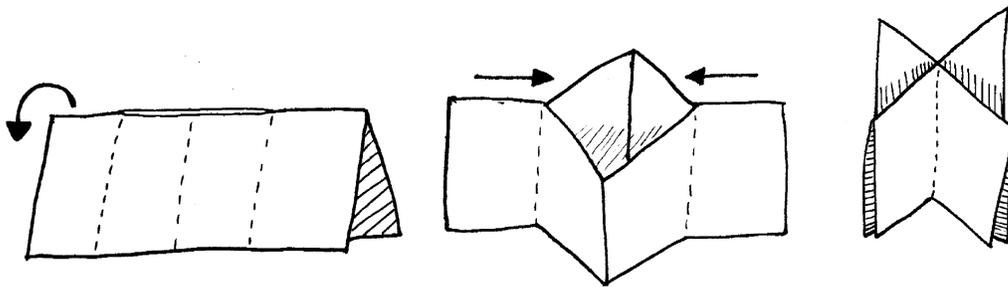


3. Re-fold your paper in half widthwise or "hamburger." Starting on the folded side, cut down the fold-line in the center. Stop when you reach the next panel. Unfold your paper and you should have a slit running across the top of your two middle panels. When teaching this part to students it is helpful to have them make a "T" out of their

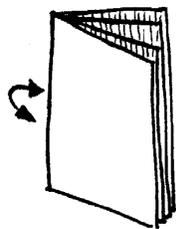
paper with the fold at the bottom of the “T” and the two outer panels forming the top of the “T.” Students will cut from the bottom of the “T” and stop at the intersection of the top of the “T.”



4. Refold your paper lengthwise, or “hotdog” and grab the two ends of your book and push inwards opening the cut you made like a diamond. Keep pushing the sides of the paper together to make an “X.”



5. Gather all pages together to one side.

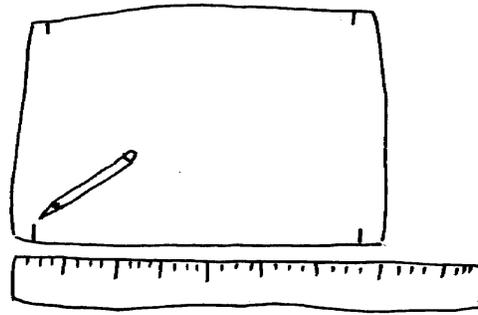


6. Press and crease. (Use bone folder or plastic knife/popsicle stick if available.)
7. Add cover using glue stick. (Optional. See below)

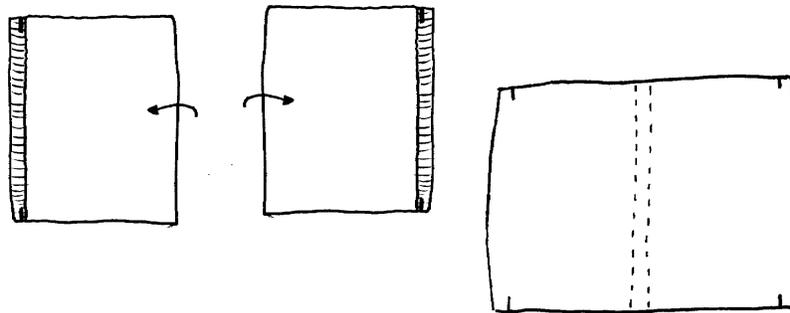
Cover (optional):

This cover fits a book that is made from an 8 ½” X 11” (if Center or Long Cut variation) or 11” x 17” (if Meander Book).

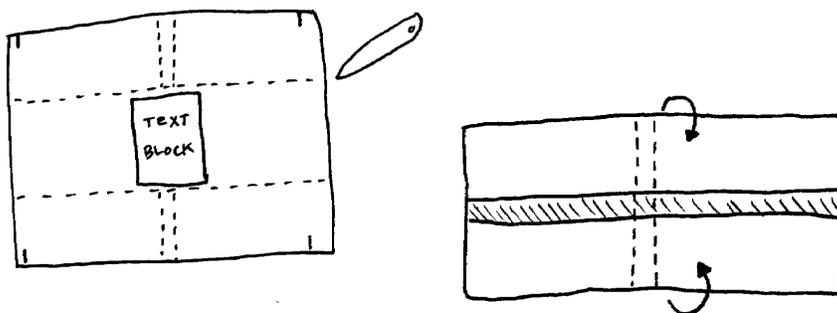
1. Start with an 8 ½” X 11” paper and lay it on the table so that it is in landscape orientation. Next make a mark one ¼” inch from each side on the top and bottom of the page.



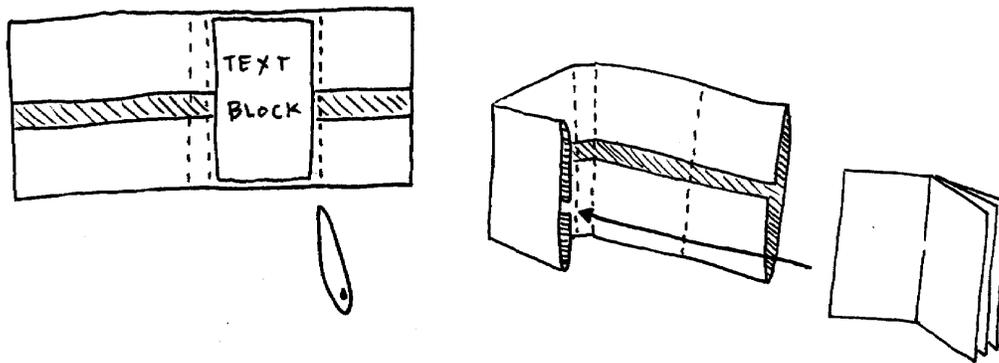
2. Next fold each edge of the paper to meet the opposite marks. Then open your paper back up. You will have two folds that will become the spine of your cover.



3. Now set your text block in the center of your paper. Use your ruler and lay it across the top of your text block. Score your paper along your ruler. Do the same along the bottom of your text block. Fold both of the sections you just scored inwards toward the center of your paper.



4. Next set your text block on your paper aligned with one of the spine scores you made in the first step. Use your ruler and lay it along the far side of your text block. Score your paper along your ruler. Repeat this process by aligning your text block along the other side of your paper against your second spine score line. Fold both of the sections you just scored inwards toward your spine. Slip the outer front and back pages of your text block into your cover.



One-Page Folded Books – Lesson Overview:

Key Points:

1. This is a good example of a simple book form often utilized by book artists and in self-publishing.
2. Each book is made from a single sheet of paper. There are many variations!

Ideas for Innovation:

1. It can be applicable to any subject.
2. Kids can fill pages their folded books with words and pictures.
3. Can be used with predesigned pages.
4. Can be easily unfolded and photocopied to make additional copies of the book, which can be traded with other students or used for a class exchange.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will increase their dexterity skills by folding cutting and gluing accurately.
2. Students will explore new ways to interact with what they're learning.
3. Students will have foundational skills for making simple books on their own.
4. Should they write their own story, they will enhance writing skills.

Core Standard Applications:

Math:

1st grade math. Standard: Work with addition and subtraction equations. Application: Have students make up a story about adding and subtracting (such as a dog that gets treats and eats them). In their book they can draw pictures and write their stories and the equations that go along with the story.

3rd grade math. Standard: Develop understanding of fractions as numbers.

Application: Have students write and draw pictures of fractions to help them visualize fractions.

Science:



6th grade science. Standard: Students will understand that the appearance of the moon changes in a predictable cycle as it orbits Earth and as Earth rotates on its axis. Application: Have students make a moon observation by drawing and writing in a book over a month recording every few nights. The meander book would be particularly well suited for this because of its many pages.

4th grade science. Standard: Students will understand the physical characteristics of Utah's wetlands, forests, and deserts and identify common organisms for each environment. Application: Have students select a habitat and make a book about the organisms that live there. They can draw pictures and write information about the plants and animals that would be found in Utah's wetlands, forests, or deserts.

Language Arts:

5th grade language arts. Standard: Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others. Application: Have students write short poems and publish them on a class blog. Then combine them into a book for everyone (you might have to make a few books so they will have a little book set of poems). Discuss the pros and cons of publishing online vs. in real life. What is good and bad about both kinds of publishing?

2nd grade language arts. Standard: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details and well-structured event sequences. Application: Have students practice writing stories that have a sequence of events. They can write stories from their lives or one that they make up.

Social Studies:

Kindergarten social studies. Standard: Students will recognize and describe how individuals and families are both similar and different. Application: Students will make a book about the members of their families. Students can look at each other's books and talk about how families are similar and different.

6th grade social studies. Standard: Students will understand how ancient civilizations developed and how they contributed to the current state of the world. Application: Students will select an ancient civilization they have learned about in school and will draw pictures and write about how they have contributed to the modern world.