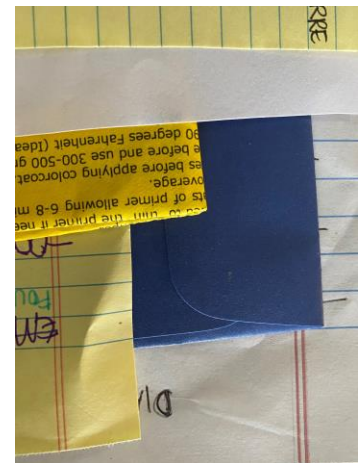


## Making Paper (The Easy Way)

Did you know the building that houses the Briscoe Western Art Museum was once the original San Antonio Public Library? The location at 210 Market served as the city's main library from 1930 until 1968. In 2006, it was leased to the National Western Art Foundation, which is how it came to be the museum you know today. In honor of the many books, which were once housed within its walls, this lesson will show you how to create recycled paper from scrap materials. You can use this beautiful, textured paper to write stories, create art, or even bind your own book.

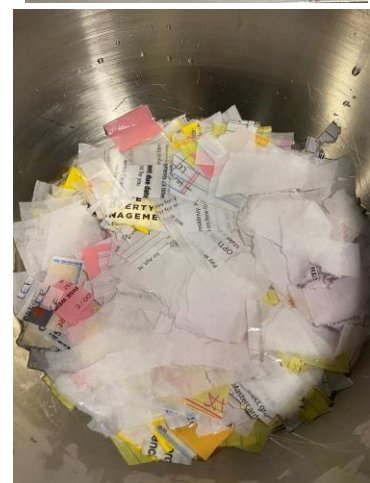
### Gather Your Materials

- Paper (old newspapers, mail, graded homework, etc.)
- Large bowl
- Scissors
- Blender
- Spoon
- Grease splatter screen
- Water
- Rimmed baking sheet
- (Optional) Pan
- (Optional) dried flowers, seeds, glitter



**Step 1:** Using your scissors, cut or tear up the paper into small pieces. Gather these in a large bowl.

**Step 2:** Pour water into the bowl until it just covers the paper scraps. Make sure that all of the paper is submerged in the water. Allow the paper to sit in the water for a few hours.



**Step 3:** Once your paper has soaked and become mushy, pour the contents of the bowl into a blender. Blend the mixture until a thick pulp forms. If you find that the mixture is looking a bit dry, you can add in a little water as needed.



**Step 4:** Place the splatter screen over a baking sheet so that it rests on top of the raised edge.

**Step 5:** Use a spoon to scoop up pulp from the blender and spread over the splatter screen in a layer that is thick enough not to have any see-through spots, but thin enough not to be too lumpy.

**Step 7:** (Optional) Scatter dried flowers, glitter, or other decorative items over the top of your paper.

**Step 8:** Press out excess water from the paper pulp by using your hands, a spatula, or a pan with a flat bottom. Do this until the layer is very thin. Drain the excess water from the baking sheet as needed.



**Step 9:** Allow this layer of pulp to dry completely before you try to pick it up. You will want to allow a day or two for drying, although letting it sit in the sun or blowing it with a hairdryer may help speed up the process.



**Step 10:** Once your paper has dried completely, you can opt to use it as is or cut off the rough edges. As always, be sure to share your paper-making fun with us by

tagging [@BriscoeMuseum](https://www.instagram.com/BriscoeMuseum) and using the hashtags [#BeyondTheBriscoe](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/BeyondTheBriscoe) and [#TheWestStartsHere](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/TheWestStartsHere), so we can check out your unique, handmade paper.

