

What is a LEARNING CIRCLE?

People can teach one another and learn together anywhere in the world. At P2PU, we believe that:



- 1 **LEARNING** is social
- 2 **EDUCATION** is a public good
- 3 **OUR EXPERIENCE** is our expertise

We deliver on this belief through learning circles: study groups for people who want to take an online course – together and in-person.

Learning circles subvert the traditional teacher/student format in favor of peer-supported learning.

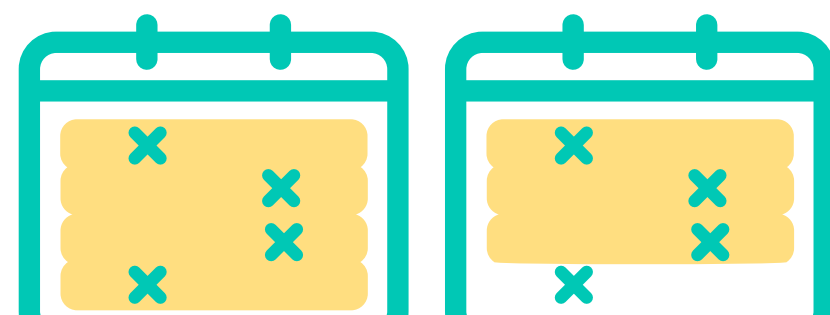


Every learning circle has a facilitator, and anybody can facilitate (you don't have to be a subject expert!)

HOW DOES IT WORK?



Learners meet in a public space like a library

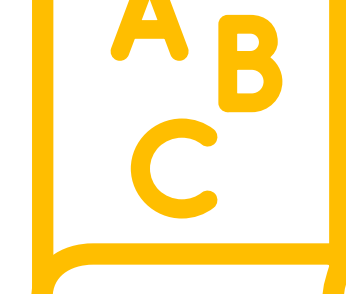
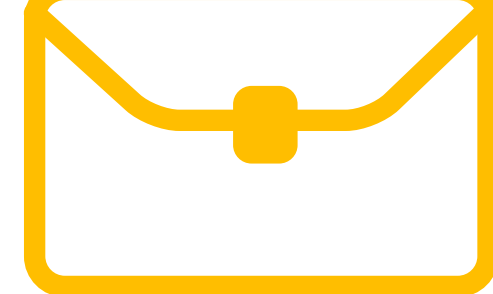
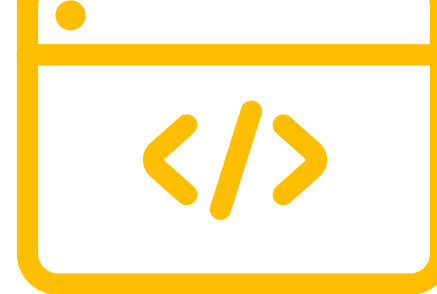


For two hours a week for 6-8 weeks



To complete a free online course together

There are 100s of free online courses to choose from, including web design, entrepreneurship, fiction writing, and English language learning.



WHAT HAPPENS when you meet?

1

Check-in

First, there is a chance to hear how everyone is doing, what they are working on today, and where they might need help.

2

Coursework

The heart of the learning circle is working through course materials – individually, in small groups, or all together gathered around a single computer or projector.



4

+ / Δ

To close, everybody shares one thing that went well that day ("plus"), and one thing to change for next week ("delta").

3

Activity

P2PU creates group activities, each 15-20 minutes long, designed to support peer learning and bridge the gap between the online course and real life.

What sets learning circles apart is that they are:

- ✓ Free
- ✓ Flexible
- ✓ Interest-driven
- ✓ Non-hierarchical
- ✓ Inclusive

Through learning circles, participants:

- ✓ Set their own goals
- ✓ Integrate their own life experience into the learning process
- ✓ Support one another
- ✓ Form strong community relationships

We've found that learning circles:

- Lead to retention rates 10x higher than online courses alone ¹
- Increase people's agency as self-guided learners ²
- Foster digital inclusion ³
- Create viable alternatives to formal education ⁴
- Invigorate community-based learning ⁵



P2PU has helped hundreds of facilitators start learning circles around the world.

WE OFFER:

- ✓ Free software tools to help organize your learning circle
- ✓ A variety of facilitation training resources
- ✓ A repository of free online courses
- ✓ A global community of support to help you realize your community learning goals

HEAD OVER TO P2PU.ORG

to find a learning circle in your community or start one today!



Learning by the people, for the people.



REFERENCES

- ¹ <https://tascha.uw.edu/publications/the-learning-circle-experience-findings-from-the-p2pu-participant-survey/>
- ² <https://repository.lib.ncsu.edu/handle/1840.20/33714>
- ³ <http://www.eifl.net/news/public-library-has-put-me-right-path>
- ⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsI9JAG7qGs>
- ⁵ <https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=chicago-public-library-gives-online-courses-the-personal-touch>