

P2PU Facilitator Guide

The Art of Storytelling

This is a facilitator guide for [The Art of Storytelling](#), a free online course developed by Pixar. The course itself includes 6 lessons, and this guide adapts the course into **six 90-minute learning circle meetings**. This course illustrates the Art of storytelling through Pixar animations. This course has built in activities and lots of colorful videos to explain the content that lend themselves to the P2PU model. The main adaptation for this course will be choosing which activities to spend your time on as a group.

[Course Website](#)

[P2PU Resource Page](#)

[P2PU Knowledge Base](#)

This course has been approved for college credit with College Unbound. Ask participants to [complete a learning journal](#) in order to earn credit.

>> [Learn more about credit-bearing learning circles](#)



What is a Facilitator Guide? P2PU Facilitator Guides are designed to provide structure and insight for adapting popular free online courses to the learning circle model. Every learning circle is different, and in that spirit we hope this will serve as a jumping off point for your learning circle -- don't feel like you need to follow this precisely. To remix this guide, click "File" and select "Make a Copy".

What's the Learning Circle Format? Each learning circle comprises a few common elements—a check-in, group activity, coursework, and a reflection—and you'll see that format followed throughout this guide. The [P2PU Knowledge Base](#) has a number of resources to help you adapt the guide for your learning circle, including [an activity library](#), [a set of standard group expectations](#), and tips for [facilitating a peer learning experience](#).

Week 1: We are all storytellers

This course has a lot of really great activities. While all of the activities reinforce concepts from the lessons it may be a challenge to get through all of the activities within your allotted meeting time especially with a large group.

1. Setup and Intros (20 min)

10 min: Setup

- Introduce facilitator(s), the topic, and the learning circle structure: Learning circles are study groups for people who want to take online classes together.
- Remind the participants that:
 - You are a facilitator and not a teacher, you don't have all the answers, and you are also here to learn.
 - Everyone has experiences and knowledge that can help others learn and everyone is encouraged to share with the group to promote each other's learning.
- If meeting online, review any tools that will be used and identify support options (email, office hours, in-person support at the library, etc.) for learner who may have technical difficulties

10 min: Introductions

- Go around the room and ask people to share their name and what they are hoping to take away from the course.
- Watch [Introduction to storytelling](#) (3min)

2. Learn Together (60 min)

Watch: [Your unique perspective\(4mins\)](#)

Try: [Activity 1: Expressing memories \(10 mins\)](#)

Watch: [Your favorite stories \(3 mins\)](#)

Try: [Activity 2: Your three favorite films \(10mins\)](#)

Watch: [What if... \(3min\)](#)

Try: [Activity 3: What if... \(10min\)](#)

Watch: [World & character \(4min\)](#)

Try: [Activity 4: Characters & worlds \(10 min\)](#)

Watch: [Advice from storytellers \(4min\)](#)

3. Reflection (10 min)

- How did the first meeting go? Give each person time to share something that they feel went well (a plus) and something that they'd like to change for the next meeting (a delta).

For Next Week

[Review Glossary Terms](#)

Week 2: Character

The activities begin to get a lot more involved in the remaining weeks. You will need to choose which activities to focus on together, to get through all of the content. This lesson has 35 minutes of Videos which gives you 30 minutes to try out some of the activities

1. Check-in (15 min)

15 min:

Watch: [Introduction to character](#)

[Warm up activity](#)

2. Learn Together (65 min)

- Watch: [Internal vs. external features \(5min\)](#)

- Try: [Activity 1: Internal & external features](#)
- Watch: [Wants vs. needs \(5min\)](#)
- Try: [Activity 2: Wants vs. needs](#)
- Watch: [Obstacles \(5min\)](#)
- Try: [Activity 3: Obstacles](#)
- Watch: [Character arc \(5min\)](#)
- Try: [Activity 4: Character arc](#)
- Watch: [Stakes \(5min\)](#)
- Try: [Activity 5: Stakes](#)
- Watch: [Advice on characters \(5min\)](#)

3. Reflect (10 min)

- What is one thing that you felt went well in our learning circle today?
- What is one thing that you would like to see change in our learning circle next week?

For Next Week

Review: [Glossary: Character](#)

Week 3: Story Structure

Notes

1. Check-in (15 min)

10 min: Story Telephone Game

Tell a story together have each person tell one sentence of a story and have the next person pick up the story until everyone has had a chance or until the story reaches a conclusion

Watch [Introduction to structure](#)(4min)

2. Learn Together (60 min)

- Watch: [Story spine\(5min\)](#)
- Try: [Activity 1: Beats](#) (15min)
 - Play the “Story Spine game” with a group of people. Go around in a circle and improv the development of a story. Start with “once upon a time” and have one person at a time spontaneously fill in the blank for each line.
- Watch: [Theme \(5min\)](#)
 - [Activity 2: Theme](#)
- Watch: [Act 1 \(5min\)](#)
 - [Activity 3: Act 1](#)
- Watch: [Act 2 \(5min\)](#)
 - [Activity 4: Act 2](#)
- Watch: [Act 3 \(5min\)](#)
 - [Activity 5: Act 3](#)
- Watch: [Advice on story structure \(5min\)](#)

3. Reflect (10 min)

- What is one thing that you felt went well in our learning circle today?
- What is one thing that you would like to see change in our learning circle next week?

For Next Week

Review: [Glossary: Story structure](#)

Week 4: Visual Language

The Activities in Part A of each activity lend themselves to great group discussion. However, discussing each activity will take up all the time. Noting that the videos are approximately 35 minutes in the learn together section you will have time to work through approximately 3 of the activities below.

1. Check-in (15 min)

10 min: Group Icebreaker

Watch [Introduction to visual language](#)

2. Learn Together (70 min)

- Watch: [Visual line \(5min\)](#)
- Try: [Activity 1: Lines](#)
 - Part A: How is line used to convey meaning and emotion within the frame below? Can you identify the primary direction of lines that direct your eyes to different parts of the frame?
- Watch: [Shape](#)
- Try: [Activity 2: Shape](#)(10min)
 - Part A
 - Can you locate the main shapes in this image?
 - How does shape influence where you look and what meaning and emotion is conveyed?
- Watch: [Space](#)
- Try: [Activity 3: Space](#) (10min)
 - Part A
 - How is the illusion of depth achieved?
 - Are there any objects that show size differences?

- Can you see how shapes and lines contribute to the depth of this scene?
- Watch: [Motion](#)
- *[Activity 4: Movement](#) (10min)
 - Part A:
 - What kind of movement (motion lines or line of action) is implied in the above images?
 - Compare the role lines play in achieving a sense of movement in both.
- [Watch: Tone](#)
- Try: [Activity 5: Tone](#) (10min)
 - Part A: In the above image, how is tone used to help create emphasis and direct the viewer's eye?
 - What mood is conveyed?
 - What kind of contrast is used (low, higher, highest?)
- Watch: [Color](#)
- [Activity 6: Color](#)
- [Advice on visual language](#)

3. Reflect (5 min)

- What is one thing that you felt went well in our learning circle today?
- What is one thing that you would like to see change in our learning circle next week?

For Next Week

- Review: [Glossary: Visual language](#)

Week 5: Film Grammar

Notes

1. Check-in (15 min)

10 min: Group Icebreaker

Other Optional Check in Activities

- Review of Previous Lesson (as needed)
- Review of Learning Circle structure (as needed)
- Review of Group Norms (as needed)

Watch [Introduction to film grammar](#)

2. Learn Together (50 min)

- Watch: [Major vs. minor beats](#)
- Try: [Activity 1: Major and minor beats](#)
- Watch: [Basic shot types](#)
- Try: [Activity 2: Basic shot types](#)
- Watch: [Extreme shots](#)
- Try: [Activity 3: Extreme & angles](#)
- Watch: [Dynamics shots](#)
- Try: [Activity 4: Dynamic shots](#)
- Watch: [Storyboarding](#)
- Try: [Activity 5: Storyboarding](#)
- Watch: [Advice on film grammar](#)

3. Reflect (10 min)

- What is one thing that you felt went well in our learning circle today?

- What is one thing that you would like to see change in our learning circle next week?

For Next Week

Review: [Glossary: Film grammar](#)

Week 6: Pitching & Feedback

Notes

1. Check-in (15 min)

10 min: Group Icebreaker

Other Optional Check in Activities

- Review of Previous Lesson (as needed)
- Review of Learning Circle structure (as needed)
- Review of Group Norms (as needed)

Watch [Introduction to pitching and feedback](#)

2. Learn Together (60 min)

- Watch: [Pitching](#)
- Try: [Activity 1: Pitching](#)
- Watch: [Giving feedback](#)
- Try: [Activity 2: Feedback](#)
- Watch: [Digesting feedback](#)
- Review: [Activity 3: Digesting feedback](#)
- Watch: [Storyreels](#)
- [Activity 4: Storyreels](#)
- Watch: [Advice on editing](#)

3. Reflect (10 min)

- What is one thing that you felt went well in our learning circle today?
- What is one thing that you would like to see change in our learning circle next week?