

Learning Circle Community Call: Choosing & Creating Courses

October 7, 2020, 12 PM - 1 PM ET

Google Meet link: meet.google.com/xna-dahq-fmf

Tips for good video discussion:

- 👋 Write “Hand” in the chat when you want to jump in to the conversation
- 💡 Share your name each time you speak
- 💬 Speak slowly and loudly
- 🎤 Mute your microphone when you're done speaking
- ✏️ Feel free to edit this collaborative agenda and add your responses to the highlighted questions below. Add a “+1” next to messages that you like!



Agenda - Assessing & Reflecting on Courses

1. Welcome & Check-in (10 min)

Who's here? Add your name and where you're from:

- 1) Nico - Hi there! Working with P2PU, based in Kingston, Canada
- 2) Becky from P2PU! Currently in Portland, OR
- 3) Dirk from P2PU. I'm in Cape Town, South Africa
- 4) Isabel from Braga, Portugal
- 5) Grif from P2PU in Cambridge, MA, USA
- 6) Julie from Ottawa, ON, Canada
- 7) Cristina Larregui, Biblioteca Centro para Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR
- 8) [Brian from Mid-Continent]
- 9) [Yossi]
- 10) Mindy Ryan from KCPL

Which of these topics are you interested in bringing to your community? Add a +1 !

- Business+1
- Climate change education +1+1
- Computer science/technology +1+1+1
- Creativity +1+1
- English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) +1
- Entrepreneurship +1 +1+1
- History+1
- Job training +1+1+1+1
- Politics
- Science +1+1
- Web design +1+1+1
- Writing/communication+1
- 3d printing and laser cutting +1+1
- Electronics
- Health/Medicine

- Culture
- Relevant topics:
 - Living in post-COVID

2. Upcoming Calls

- Facilitator Call on Wed, October 14th ([Info/RSVP](#))
- UX Call on Wed, Oct 21st ([Info/RSVP](#))
- Community Call on Wed, Nov 4th ([Info/RSVP](#))

3. Resources for Creating Courses

We've updated our tools for learning circle course creation:

- [Course Creation Guide](#) — a subject-agnostic guide for adapting subject matter expertise to the learning circle platform (regardless of which platform you use to create your course)
- [Course-in-a-Box](#) — P2PU's free tool for building and publishing online courses, no coding experience required
 - Simplified the tech, vastly improved the documentation

4. Discussion - Choosing, Using, and Reflecting on Courses

Current process for facilitators:

- Choosing
 -  **Topic resources** - allowing us to share content knowledge w/out getting into the weeds on specific course details
 - Ex. [anti-racism](#), [digital literacy](#), [well-being](#)
 -  **Tag lists** - share custom course lists by any attribute
 - Ex. [writing](#), [web design](#), [ESOL](#)
 - Find courses in P2PU's free course database: [Courses Page](#)
 - Find materials independently ([what to look for in a course](#) and [where to find courses](#)) and add them to the P2PU database
- Using

- Flexible! Many create agendas or schedules to keep things on track:
 - Example: [Facilitation Guide for The 1619 Project](#)
- Reflecting
 - Post-learning-circle survey collects feedback about a course which is automatically shared on the course's page and in the forums
 - Facilitators can manually share additional feedback about courses [on the P2PU forums](#)
 -  **Improved feedback from facilitators** - solicit feedback during and after learning circle to get a more vibrant snapshot of the experience for future facilitators.

Questions for discussion:

1. Choosing: What need or topic did you start with? How did you decide what learning material to use?
2. Using: Did you need to modify or structure the material for use in your learning circle?
3. Reflecting: What would you want to share with future facilitators about running this course?

Notes:

Julie

- Spent a lot of time looking at Edx and YouLearn to find the right courses (very frustrating). It was difficult to figure out what was appropriate for my audience.
- Currently using GreatCourses.com sets a good tone as it has entertaining and works well for her audience, has good discussion questions with each course. I start by showing videos and then using the discussion questions
- Assessment:
 - Understanding the quality would be very helpful.
 - Some courses on Edx courses show the number of hours it takes learners to take the course.

- Important to see if there are requirements for homework not to use the course
- Sharing feedback
 - Is the content entertaining?
 - Are additional in-depth material is available? Is it required or optional?
 - Are aides or discussion questions available?
 - Plans to find and create additional youtube resources as supplemental material
- Creating agendas
 - Tried using whiteboard but it didn't seem useful for my audience
 - Now sending notes related to our agenda through our reminder messages

Isabel

- It is hard to find free courses in our own language in Portuguese
- Using videos (some in English) to support their learning circle
- Chose course from P2PU course list in advance (English language learning) for their learning circle
- Starting with a group that they know already, and have not started assessing needs of an external community

Yossi

- Can learners turn into facilitators? That would increase our impact
- Suggests forum or place for asynchronous discussion for learners to support their learning outside of learning circle meeting and the course
- Important to have topical or current educational topics (example: life in a post-COVID world)
- There should be a way for people to collaboratively make courses together
 - Yossi ready to help support course development and topic guides

Becky

- A reference guide with additional resources and videos would be useful

Question: are resource or topic guides needed for facilitating a learning circle?

- Yossi: A slightly different framing is: what is the difference between a facilitator and learner? What information is needed for a facilitator to start? The guidance involved should be available for all participants and learners not just the facilitator
- Julie: For her audience, her expectation is to step back as much as possible and not create a larger agenda.

How do we connect topic experts with facilitators looking for specific course material?

Mindy

- Use LinkedIn and reach out when she sees topic experts or interests that she wants to connect with.
- Useful to explain the audience to the topic expert that she is working with to provide context
- How do you choose the assessments/questions framework for reflecting on learning materials?
 - Baseline q: "Of all of the conversations you've seen, what's missing?" What wasn't relevant?
 - We highlight best practices for personal adaptation.
 - The latest goal is for the first cohort to create feedback about the cohort experience and the resources suggested for the next cohort.

Index of resources

Finding a course

- [P2PU Course List](#)
- [How do I find an online course?](#)

Evaluating a course

- [History of online courses & online course terminology](#)
- [Template: What to look for in a course?](#)
- [Slide: What makes an online course well- suited for learning circles?](#)

Contributing course knowledge back to the community

- [Resources for Digital Literacy Programming](#)
- [Resources for Activism & Anti-Racism](#)
- [Well-being & Self-care Topic Guide](#)

Creating a course

- [Course-in-a-box website](#)
- [Course Creation Guide](#)