What is a Learning Circle?

- Informal groups organized around a single topic or goal
- Have an online component
- Are student-centered
- Participants have shared interest or learning goal
- Take place at a predetermined time/place, for a specified period of weeks/months

Benefits of Learning Circles

- Can be about any topic
- Need facilitator, not trained teacher or subject matter expert
- Can be easily implemented by non education organizations such as libraries
- Increased learner confidence
- Learn from/with others with the same interest
- Builds strong sense of community
- Students learn technology skills
- Brings structure/responsibility to online learning

Things to Consider About Virtual Learning Circles

- Orient students to platform. Use screen sharing to provide support.
- Good way to address wait lists
- Important to establish classroom norms and incorporate student’s home environment
- Encourage peer support and leadership opportunities

Resources

Webinar Recording: https://youtu.be/fm8jUQ5INYE

Webinar Resources: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6x2u5ifds6lnjkw/AA Cpj-izSmyXeAdSHRv3Iw7ca?dl=0


Content Resources
- Pitney Bowes Workforce Development Collection: https://proliteracyednet.org/workforce
- USA Learns: https://www.usalearns.org/
- VOA Learning English: https://learningenglish.voanews.com/
- We Speak NYC: https://wespeaknyc.cityofnewyork.us/
- ESL Library: https://eslibrary.com/
- Learning Upgrade: https://web.learningupgrade.com/
- Burlington English: https://www.burlingtonenglish.com/
- The Change Agent: https://changeagent.nelrc.org/
- Cell-Ed: https://www.cell-ed.com/
- NewsELA: https://newsela.com/