



Online Classes FAQ

In Loft online classes you will join a strong community of writers with the guidance of an experienced teaching artist to help you set and attain your personal writing goals. Classes usually include real-time chats, vibrant asynchronous discussions, peer critiques, and focused feedback from your teaching artist. The Loft has always valued the strong connections among writers cultivated by its classes; this is a mission we bring to our online classes that make them distinct from other online writing programs.

How do online classes work?

Each class has its own dedicated private website with links to lectures, videos, assignments, and online discussions. You receive instructions on how to access the website at least two days before the class begins. You can then login on your own schedule each week to participate in the class.

Am I ready for an online class?

Many of our students describe themselves as technological novices, but they quickly adapt to the online class environment with the help of their teaching artist, their fellow students, and Loft staff. You will need to:

- Check email regularly.
- Access the Internet and find a website using a web address (URL).
- Download and open PDF and/or MS Word documents.
- Watch online videos.
- Participate in online discussion forums, live chats, and other activities.

What are the technical requirements?

- You can use any up-to-date browser on a personal computer (Mac or PC) with an Internet connection.
- You may also use a tablet or mobile device using the Moodle app (freely available from the Google Play or Apple store). Because of extensive discussions using only a smart phone is not recommended.

How much time does it take?

- You should plan to spend about two hours a week participating in class activities. Low-stakes classes take about one hour a week.



Do I have to log in during a specific time every week?

- Online classes are intended to be completed on your own schedule. Log in any time during the week to read content, watch videos, complete assignments, and participate in discussions.
- Some classes may have occasional live chats so the students can get to know one another better. These are scheduled by the teaching artists, in consideration of the students' schedules. Chats are optional.

What if I miss a week?

- If you miss a week, it is easy to catch up by browsing through the past week's content and discussions. You continue to have access to the course content about one week past the end of class to finish up the readings and activities.

Are classes private?

- Yes, your work in an online class is private to that classroom, and we emphasize that to teaching artists and students.
- You have the option of using a pseudonym in your online class.

If you have any questions, please email kscaletta@loft.org or call 612-379-8999.