



The purpose of the monthly Teaching Tip is to provide ideas and resources for faculty in various disciplines. This month's newsletter will highlight the Center for Teaching and Learning's (CTL) book club program called Learning Circles.

What is a Learning Circle? At NMU, a Learning Circle (LC) is an informal group for faculty who share an interest in exploring a teaching topic. Dr. Jill Leonard, who served as the first Teaching Learning Scholar, started this program several years ago. In LC's, faculty gather to discuss a selected book related to teaching and learning.

How does a Learning Circle work? Typically, LC's meet four to eight times during a semester, with the dates/times decided by the group. Each meeting is led by a facilitator with support from the Scholar. The Scholar will advertise, recruit members, and assist the facilitator or act as a co-facilitator. You can volunteer to be a facilitator or a member; we need both! You are not expected to be an expert on the subject to attend or facilitate. The Scholar will send a survey to interested persons to determine meeting dates and times. The CTL staff will help to secure a meeting room or Zoom link and purchase the books.

Frequently asked questions:

- *What happens if I can't attend a meeting?* We understand that faculty may need to miss meetings periodically throughout the semester. We do ask that you not join a group if you have a direct conflict with scheduled meeting times. Also, if you need to be absent, we ask that you notify the scholar and/or facilitator via email.
- *Can I attend via Zoom?* Given the likely increase in COVID infections, we will be meeting via Zoom this semester.
- *How much reading is assigned per week?* The group decides on a reasonable amount of reading each week or every two weeks dependent upon meeting dates.
- *What if I am not able to read the assigned pages/chapters before a meeting?* You may still attend the meeting to hear what others have to say. You can catch up on the reading when your schedule permits.
- *Do I get to keep the book?* Yes, faculty keep the selected hard copy book. If available, faculty may be able to obtain an electronic copy if desired.
- *What if I don't like the selected book?* Faculty are free to express their opinions during discussions and are able to share additional resources. If you have a book that you would like to propose for a LC, please email the information to the Scholar and consider volunteering to act as a facilitator.

What books have been discussed recently by LC's?

Fall 2019

Teach Students How to Learn by Sandra McGuire and Stephanie McGuire.

Facilitators: Drs. Kate Teeter & Lisa Flood

Winter/Summer 2020

Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success by Wendy Laura Belcher

Facilitator: Mollie Freier

Fall 2020

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

Facilitator: Dr. Keenan Colquitt

Winter 2021

White Fragility by Robin Diangelo

Facilitators: Drs. Wendy Farkas & Lisa Flood

Summer 2021

Portage Lake: Memories of an Ojibwe Childhood by Maude Kegg

Everything You Wanted to Know about Indians but Were Afraid to Ask by Anton Treuer

Facilitators: Drs. Jud Sojourn & Lisa Flood

Are you interested in learning more about LC or joining a group? Additional information is available on the CTL's web site: <https://www.nmu.edu/ctl/learning-circles>. You may also contact me directly at lflood@nmu.edu. Please look for an email announcement soon regarding this semester's LC! We will be discussing *Make it Stick: The Science of Successful Learning* by Peter Brown, Henry Roediger III, and Mark McDaniel.