Language Arts Online: Moving Writer's Workshop and Literature Circles to Digital Classrooms

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As classrooms become more digitally enhanced, many educators feel a sense of urgency to ensure that some of the more interactive, traditionally face-to-face elements of their content are not lost in translation to online interaction. In the Language Arts classroom, two activities that have proven their worth in advancing student literacy are the Writer's Workshop and Literature Circles—both of which hinge upon student interaction and peer and instructor feedback. An assistant professor of English education addresses this issue with a comparison of both online and on campus Writer's Workshop and Literature Circles, using six semesters of students to share in and provide feedback about the process. The ongoing results include both challenges and advice for overcoming some of the issues of moving such activities to the digital classroom.