

The online writing classroom is not an identity-neutral place. The online writing classroom is not a place where the prejudices of our society are rendered irrelevant or invisible because bodies are not “present.” The online writing classroom is not just an interaction of users and designers doing things to be accessed equitably. The existential dimension of an online writing classroom is not the sum of its usability. The people in online writing classrooms are not just personas (to be crafted for audiences) or saliences of social presences (to be measured).

The online writing classroom is a place where identity happens. The online writing classroom is a place where identity is revealed and concealed and effaced and privileged through names, pictures, raciolinguistics, genre conventions, ideas, behaviors, LMS architecture, hardware, software applications, institutional contexts, and otherwise the places of identity that locate or dislocate or relocate or lose our students and instructors in this world. The experiences of the online writing classroom are an embodied, engendered, culturally dissituated, interfaced, and invented power dynamic where **identity[ification] matter**.

Critical/Cultural Practices [to make identity[ification] matter in OWI]

Learn students’ preferred names.

i.e. Unless students [are allowed to] change their names, LMSs display legal names.

Learn students’ preferred pronouns.

i.e. Gender identification matters.

Discuss language politics in our assignments.

e.g. Is teaching/learning Standard American English an empowering or colonial act?

Discuss identity politics in our assignments.

e.g. How does identity impact our ability to be heard and listen?

Recognize biases in the design of our assignments and try to correct it.

e.g. Why am I teaching students god tricks? [i.e. to write without situated eyes]

Recognize biases in our assessment and try to correct it.

e.g. Why am I tripping on [lowercase] i and penalizing students for it?

Be mindful of how the interface changes our perceptions, behaviors, and attitudes towards one another in the online writing classroom.

i.e. “Perceiving includes our ideas or conceptions about reality...If you look at me, the me in myself may be different from the me you perceive” –Tich Nhat Hanh