

Picturing Literate Activity: A Tale of Two Writing Spaces

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In two images, Jennifer Coe shows the tools behind—and underneath—the devices she uses to be able to write on multiple screens and in different positions.

Along with approximately fifteen percent of the world's population, I have a disability. Its most challenging symptoms—brain fog and severe pain in my spine that prevents me from sitting upright or walking and is only slightly relieved by lying flat—come and go and are always completely unexpected. In the decade that I have been living with this disease, I've had to construct ways to accommodate these intermittent periods of severe pain and cognitive issues, while keeping calm and carrying on. Because I'm not getting well soon. And I have things to write.

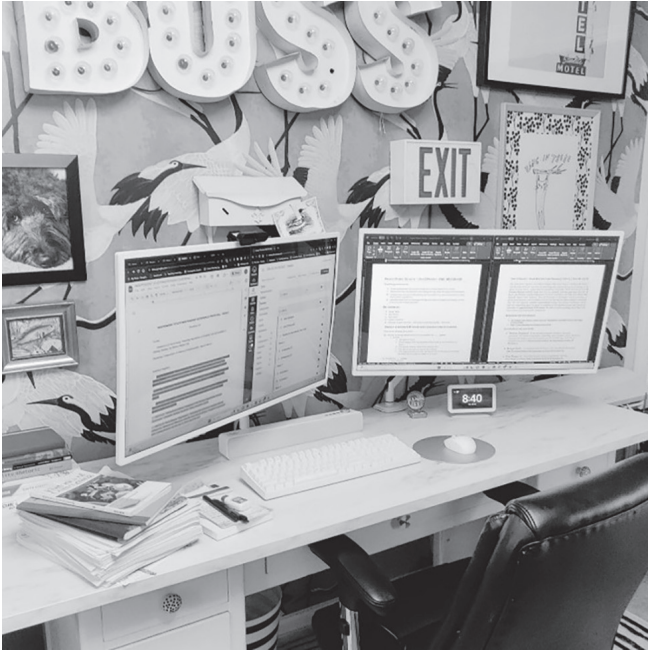


Figure 1: This is where I write most often. These large screens are connected to a device I use to dock my laptop, which allows me to take my laptop (and all my works-in-progress) with me, wherever I go. I am notorious for having dozens of files and programs open when I write, and then complaining about my computer running slow.



Figure 2: This is where I write when I am experiencing a flare and need to lay flat. The laptop stand allows me to write when I cannot sit at my desk, but it can be frustrating to be limited to the one small screen of this portable device, when I am accustomed to two large computer screens. I don't do my best writing here, but I do complete a lot of writing here.

Jennifer Coe is a Master's student in the English Department at Illinois State University. Her research interests include Disability Studies and Writing Pedagogy. In her free time, she loves spending time with her family, sewing, and listening to audiobooks.



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