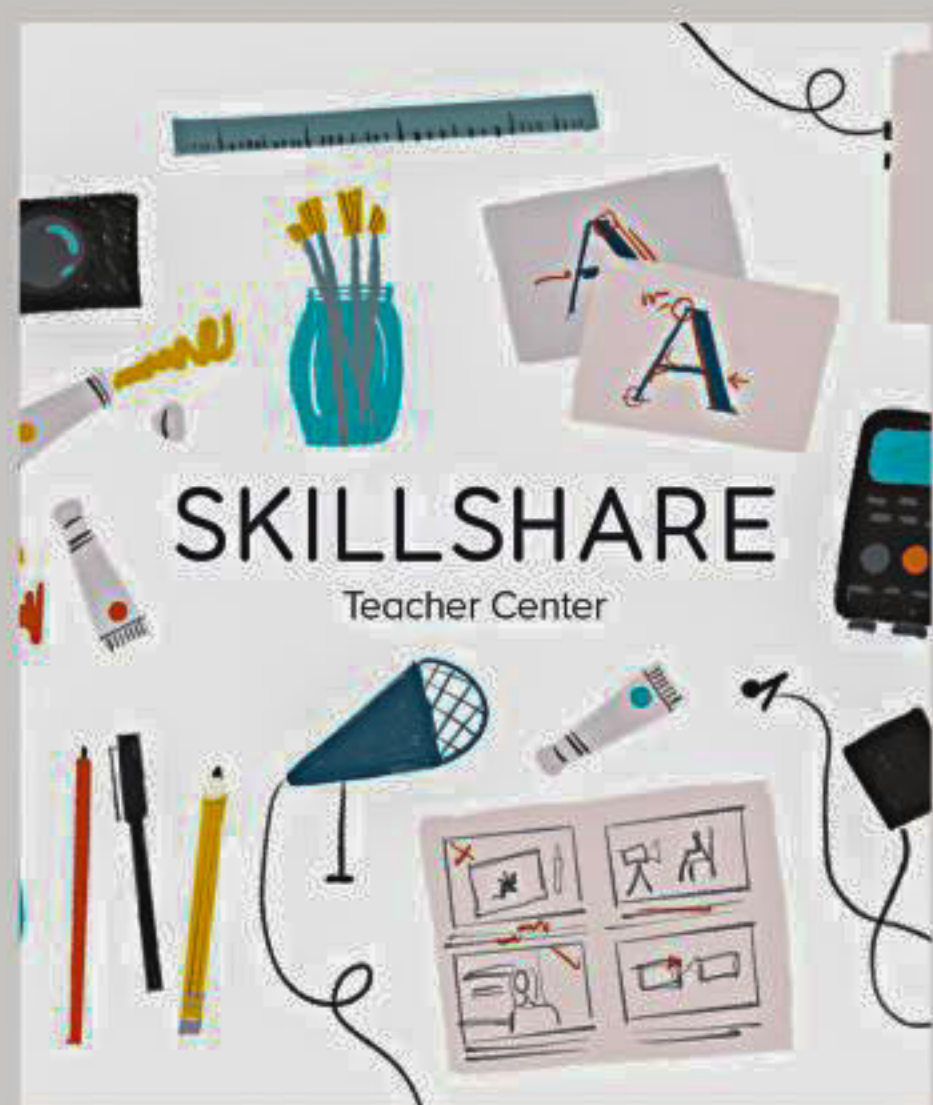


The future of learning, now.

NOSHIN NAWAR

Knowledge is the cradle on which the fate of human evolution rests. But it's the weekend and schools are closed—where can one go to gather knowledge and learn new skills? E-learning platforms, of course.



SKILLSHARE

Skillshare is an E-learning platform which offers unlimited access to many useful courses, available for \$15/month. SkillShare offers the first two months for free, and the site gives access to around 25,000 courses from the start. Whether it's fields such as graphics designing, finger painting, sound engineering, or orthodox learning like physics, biology, economics, Skillshare has got you covered.

COURSERA

Offering over 2,000 different courses in about 130 specialisations, Coursera is a source of credible curated content. The content is highly self-contained which eliminates any need for outside material for mastering a skill. The certificates are priced at a range of \$29-\$99, but Coursera's collaboration with more than 190 companies and universities makes the certificates more widely accepted, which more than makes up for the price. Coursera offers a free trial period, during which one is free to switch courses within a specialisation and cancel a subscription at no cost.



UDEMY

Udemy offers thousands of courses on 13 broad categories, while also giving online certificates upon completion of courses. Unlike Skillshare, a Udemy user must purchase each course in order to avail the learning materials. Information regarding the course costs, requirements, reviews and the detailed curriculum can be found on the Udemy site. A negative aspect of Udemy is that the quality of the courses isn't consistent, because the uploaded content (especially the free ones) aren't always curated.

EDX

Created by Harvard and MIT, EdX currently offers around 1,250 courses along with 20 micro-masters courses, which a number of colleges may accept. Backed up by instructor expertise and splendid reviews, EdX has been a game changer for students and job-seekers, despite the high cost of some courses (prices range from \$50 to \$300).



Simulation games to stimulate your brain

RAHBAR AL HAQ

Videogames are about unearthing secrets in atypical virtual worlds. Simulation games on the other hand, hands the rule book over to the player, asks them to build the world, customise it to their heart's content and shape its narrative. By doing so, simulation games take worldly concepts, flesh them out into a video game format and let players learn about the game-world, and the world surrounding them. Here's a couple of titles that do just that.

TRANSPORT FEVER

Availability: Microsoft Windows, macOS, Linux

Price: \$11.99 (Steam)

For those curious about the nightmarish logistics of maintaining a transport company, this game will deliver. In-game, you start around 1850 as a rail service and as time progresses, you can start to expand roadway, maintain water supplies and air quality, while building up your huge network of trucks, trains, boats and planes to become the biggest transport tycoon of the 21st century.



RISE OF INDUSTRY

Availability: Microsoft Windows, macOS, Linux

Price: \$10.99 (Steam)

You start as an eccentric entrepreneur and slowly build up your means of production, set up supply lines and eventually, become a business mogul who owns virtually everything. All in all, if you ever wanted to experience the wild days of early industrialization, then this is the perfect game for you.

DEMOCRACY 3

Availability: Microsoft Windows, macOS, Linux

Price: \$24.99

The third instalment of the Democracy series offers a much deeper look into the life of a head of state. In the game, you enact policy to tackle everything from petty crimes to climate change, dismiss or support demands of various parties and most importantly, make sure that the general populace is happy enough that they won't kick you out of the office.

