



Professional Learning Activity:
*Professional
Learning Networks*



Teaching Channel.

A K12 Coalition Company

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Participants will identify the importance of taking charge of their own professional learning.
- Participants will explore professional learning networks (PLNs).
- Participants will identify 10 people or organizations to follow using social media platforms to increase professional learning opportunities.

NECESSARY MATERIALS:

- Internet access
- Conversation Notes handout (one per partnership or small group)

FACILITATOR EMAIL:

Today we are going to discover a method for taking charge of your own PD through Professional Learning Networks or PLN's. To do so, we will follow this research-based professional learning model developed by Teaching Channel.





Technology changes in the blink of an eye, so it's important to stay abreast of updates to your favorite tools and get the scoop about brand new ones. Below are several ways educators can build their Professional Learning Network (PLN).

First, watch this quick video overview from Common Sense Media:

WHAT'S A PLN? 3 WAYS TEACHERS CAN GET CONNECTED

For this activity, you will build your PLN by discovering people and organizations to follow. Complete the following:

1 Select one or more platforms to explore from the chart below.

Personalize your PD as you build your online network with these social media platforms.

TWITTER	INSTAGRAM	YOUTUBE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powerful PD in 140 Characters (or Fewer) • Cheat Sheet: Twitter For Teachers • Twitter for Teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How To Start a Teacher Instagram • Instagram for Teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting Started with YouTube • 30+ YouTube Channels for Teachers

2 Locate 10 people or organizations that will help you stay on top of news, updates and changes in areas that are relevant to your role and interests. Use the directions below to help you find profiles to follow:

- Brainstorm a list of keywords, topics, and phrases about which you'd like to learn more (Some examples include distance learning, tech tools, STEAM, student motivation, 4Cs, digital learning, etc.)
- Search your selected social media platform (Twitter, Instagram or YouTube) for people and organizations using these keywords. You'll share a list of your favorite profiles later.
- If you are not familiar with these social media platforms, you may elect to review the lists of "must follow" people and organizations, linked in the above table, and decide who you would follow from those lists.

3 Once you've found your tribe, meet virtually with a colleague or small group of your peers, and discuss the prompts outlined on the Conversation Notes handout.

To learn more about supporting English Learners, check out these learning opportunities from Teaching Channel:

[Personalized Learning Networks and the Power of Connected Educators](#)

[Video Blog: Personalized Learning Network](#)

[Course 5093: Digital Tools in the Connected Classroom](#)



Conversation Notes:

DISCUSSION PROMPTS	NOTES
Describe your initial thoughts on developing a PLN.	
What do you already know about using social media to grow professionally? What more do you want to know? How will you find out?	
Share one takeaway from the articles, videos or tutorials you watched that will positively impact your professional practice.	
Share at least 2 of the people and/or organizations you chose to follow and explain why.	
What do you hope the specific positive impacts might be to your students, families, colleagues or other educational stakeholders as you learn from your PLN?	
Describe how you intend to use your newly updated PLN to keep current and stay connected to what's happening in the world of teaching and learning.	



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