

CL 2018 Assignment 2 guide - Professional Learning Network

Assignment 2 (60%) - due week 14 Monday 4th June

Word length: equivalent to 3000 words

Submission format: Blog/website

This assignment is based on developing and analysing your online professional learning network (PLN) in an area of specialised professional interest. **You are required to use a range of social media including Twitter to undertake this task.** You are also required to create web-based content on your area of interest to share in your network.

1) **Choose your interest:** Choose a specialised professional interest (i.e. topic or subject area) on which you will base this learning. This could be a broad professional interest area such as leadership in education, inclusive education, behaviour management, educational technology, positive psychology etc, or a narrower area such as coding, makerspaces, children's literature, inquiry learning, digital literacies etc. On your blog/website, clearly indicate your area of interest.

2) **Map your PLN:** If you already have an online PLN that incorporates learning about this area of interest, draw a map that represents your current PLN. You can use a digital tool or hand-draw your map. Include the tools and platforms you are using, the people and groups that you are following, the hashtags you use etc. You may include face-to-face elements if relevant. If you don't have a PLN in this area and you're starting from scratch, draw a map of your planned PLN. Please note that you may have a wider network than that represented in your map, as you are confining this map to a discrete area of interest.

3) **Develop your online PLN:** Over an extended period of time (i.e. months), actively and purposively create and/or expand your online PLN in relation to this specialised interest. This should involve joining online groups, following people/organisations/forums, subscribing to blogs, sharing information, using hashtags, tagging people, intelligently commenting/responding, creating and sharing digital content. The content you create and share could be curated collections, blog posts, website, audio, video, infographics and images. **You must write and share at least one blog post and create at least one other digital artefact (i.e. curated collection, video).**

Your efforts should be directed at developing knowledge in your area of interest and becoming a productive and active online citizen. Note: it's fine to have differing levels of activity as you develop your PLN. For instance, you may start slow, and had bursts of activity along the way.

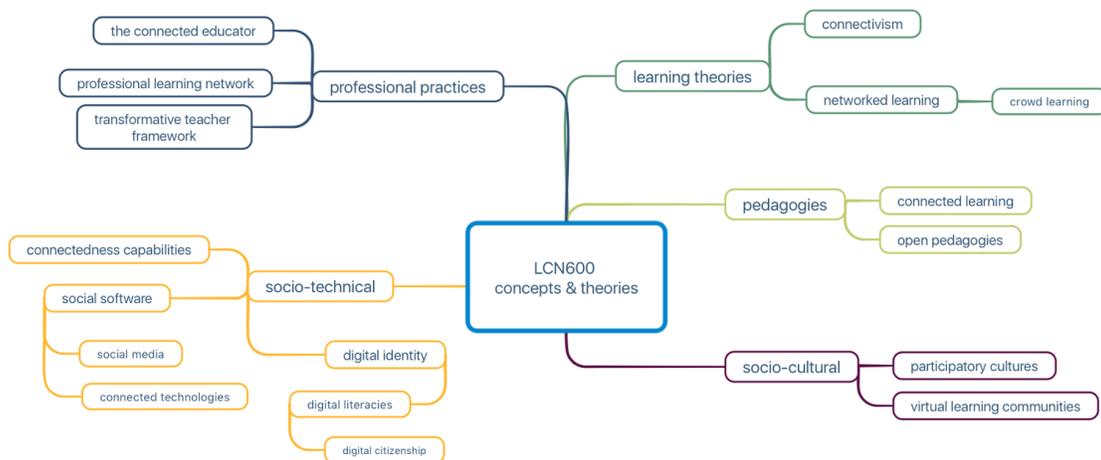
You are expected to use a range of web tools and platforms with which to create and share content and develop your PLN. See [Jane Hart's 2017 top 200 tools for learning](#). Here are some popular tools and platforms:

- Social networks: **It is compulsory to use Twitter to develop your PLN.** You may find Tweetdeck useful to manage your Twitter feed. It is also expected that you will use other relevant social networks such as G+, Facebook, LinkedIn, Yammer
- Curation: e.g. Scoopit, Diigo and Storify
- Blogging: e.g. Wordpress, Edublogs, Medium, Blogger
- Presentation: e.g. SlideShare
- Video: e.g. YouTube, Vimeo
- Audio: e.g. Sound Cloud

4) **Reflect on your PLN:** Over the months as you develop your PLN keep notes and reflections about your activities including the ways that you have contributed to others' learning and how they have responded to you. In particular, reflect on any critical incidents (positive or negative) that you have experienced.

5) **Map your final PLN:** Draw a map that represents your 'final' PLN (for the purposes of this task).

6) **Analyse your PLN:** Analyse your PLN in relation to the theories and concepts that we have addressed in the unit:



On your blog/website, report the results of your analysis. Compare and contrast your first and second maps (include these as images), and incorporate your reflections including critical incidents. You should provide evidence of the content you have created and shared, the responses to your content and your own responses to others.

Guiding questions for reflection and analysis (write an integrative response addressing these questions, don't address them in a shopping list manner):

1. How active is the virtual learning community in relation to your specialised interest?
2. How did you contribute to the learning community in terms of facilitating others' learning?
3. What sort of content did you create and why? What was the response to your content?
4. What critical incidents did you experience? What was important about them?
5. What did you learn through developing your PLN...
 - a. About your area of interest?
 - b. About yourself?
 - c. About your digital identity?
 - d. About other people?
 - e. About social media?
6. How does your experience relate to the theories and frameworks this unit has addressed?

7. How does your experience relate to the participants in Kay Oddone's research? Are you a time manager, online extrovert, linear linker, constant explorer, self-directed sharer etc
8. How do you plan to develop your PLN in the future?

Style:

Use a professional, reflective writing style incorporating hyperlinks and a reference list (preferably APA style). Assign a Creative Commons license to the content you create. If you re-use other's content (such as images on your blog/website), you must only re-use content that is allowable under CC, or public domain, or that you have written permission from the publisher to use.