

ED 634 Communication, Ethics and Leadership

Part 2 of ED 634

1. Describe your PLN and any new ideas for your PLN you found through the D2L resources?

A: It was fascinating to discover what a PLN is/was about. When I first explored this concept, I kept thinking it was a PLD (Professional/Personal Learning Development), and not a PLN (Professional/Personal Learning Network). This revelation was awesome because I couldn't figure out what to do with a PLD ☺. I have always been opposed to twitter and any social media. After reading all of the resources, I now understand that these are incredible learning tools. You can connect with multiple principals, teachers and students in the blink of an eye! In retrospect, I didn't realize that you could be on twitter and limit the number of observers and commentators to your account. In addition, I did not realize how many successful leaders were on twitter. Although I found twitter to be frustrating at first, I understood that it may be a necessary tool in order to be a successful administrator.

2. What value do you see in using a PLN for personal professional development and how do you plan to continue to learn and grow as a leader by expanding your PLN?

A: A colleague of mine has already informed me that I should "follow" her and her PLN. She was so excited to hear that I am exploring this option that I could not resist. If my colleague is on twitter, whom I respect immensely, is telling me I would be a worthy addition to twitter, then I need to be there. Many articles in the D2L resources were fascinating to read and I cannot wait to follow more of them. I believe that this adventure will expand my ability as a leader since so many people are providing so much useful (and often funny) information. I also see the importance of adding twitter as an administrator because of its ease of use and its reachability of parents and students.

3. Describe your efforts in using Twitter and list your Twitter handle.

A: Oh my goodness! I was so overwhelmed! I went on 4 different times before our TweetChat and I could not keep up with the amount of information that was being presented to me. During TweetChat, I had to refresh the page every 30 seconds to keep up as it did not automatically refresh for me. I promise that I did nothing wrong, but it made me feel lost that night. The good news is that I was able to communicate and some of my colleagues began describing other sites that helped them. This was comforting as I would like to explore these options more for both classroom teacher purposes and admin purposes.

4. What do you see as the possibilities for you in the future using Twitter or other social media for learning, communicating and growing professionally?

A: I truly believe that this can be useful and is necessary as a leader. We leaders are often looked upon as beacons of morality. What better way to demonstrate that morality than to be a focal point on social media, particularly twitter.

5. Respond to at least one other student's post.

A: Unfortunately, I have been late to these responses. I will say that there was a mix of students who had been on twitter and felt comfortable to a litany of students who were lost, such as myself. During the TweetChat, I was able to respond to multiple tweets and simply post my original ideas of the ESPN article. I felt bad that someone tweeted he had already relapsed as he seemed to be a larger than life guy.