

Thanks for coming... (tab key)

It was funny how I came up with this little session on Differentiated Professional Learning Networks. See I use reading particular blogs as one of my professional ways to grow and learn new things. (tab key)

One great blog that always shares cool new sites, plug-ins, and programs is called, Transitioning to Web 2.0. The author, JBlack, posted a blog on why she was quitting Twitter, one of my favorite PLNs. (tab key)

I just had to respond with a plea to not quit Twitter – how maybe she hadn't built up her network enough – tweeted enough, used one of their many programs to feed the tweets.

In response she posted a new blog entry to explain what she had done and how Twitter just wasn't for her.

That's when I realized all the different ways the web allows us to communicate. (tab key)

Then, from being a teacher, (tab key)

I started realizing how learning from participating in several of the new Collaborative Web (Web 3.0) tools, that I have differentiated my learning, my professional growth.

(tab key)

When I talk of my PLN I speak of the part of the web where (tab key through all the points of my PLN)

I gain new knowledge, ideas, programs, gadgets, websites, where I ask for help, where I bounce ideas off of others – it is part of developing the skills in order to utilize technology's latest capabilities. So when people ask me, what is your PLN? (tab key)

I can easily say it has 3 parts:

1. Reading blogs
2. Using Twitter
3. By participating in Nings.

Let me give you a visual to help you see how these 3 tools help me to differentiate my learning.

(tab key)

Close your eyes and envision yourself at the store looking at a rack of magazines to choose from. You take one home to read. - One with a great idea that you could use when redecorating your living room. Or one with a fantastic recipe that you'll be sure to try out at the next get-together you throw. Or maybe it has this great parenting tip for getting your child to understand how to share his or her toys. (tab key)

While reading these articles you dog tag a few pages or maybe even rip out the article to refer to it later. From reading these magazine articles you were able to get a new thought or understanding. That is the same concept as why you should follow a few particular awe-inspiring blogs.

(tab key and read blurb)

(tab key) The second part of my PLN are the Nings I participate in.

(tab key) I will say up front that I don't spend enough time in this area as I want, but face it, we are all busy and this one can take a little more time and effort though you can get friendly reminders or pokes to get yourself to look there and see what is going on by setting up your email preferences when you join the Ning.

So what is a Ning ~ Close your eyes ~ no don't ~ (tab key)

we can look at Ning just like you are here attending this conference. How did you get here? Well you heard about it, signed up, (tab key)

paid, (tab key)

traveled some, (tab key)

picked out what you wanted to hear or attend, showed up
and participated. (tab key)

Nings work the same way except for 2 aspects ~ there is
not travel expense or any fees to attend! (tab key)

The 3rd professional development tool I use is Twitter. And
to me it is the most exhilarating tool because of its pace.

(tab key)

You may have heard about this latest program in the news but let me share how I view it. To me it is listening to conversations as you pass people in a hallway, (tab key)

overhear at a luncheon, or was being discussed at a party.

(tab key)

It may be about something that you care nothing about so you just ignore it. Maybe you'd like to give your 2¢ and share your opinion. (tab key)

Or maybe it is so awesome that you want to take it and spread it around so that others will hear. To me that is what Twitter is ~ conversations buzzing around every second, occasionally listening in or participating until something pulls you away. You can perk your ears up for 10 seconds or even hold a conversation with many people over a given time. (tab key)

(tab key) Those are my 3 main PLNs that we are going to dive more into this hour so let's get going.

(Go to <http://presentingmsmith.pbwiki.com/Differentiate-Start-Here>)