## **THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR DEVELOPING YOUR PERSONAL LEARNING NETWORK (PLN’s)**

1. **Keep the spirit of collaboration as your driving force.**  PLNs are all about working together.  Be reciprocal and resourceful.  Social responsibility is the best kind of motivation for establishing a PLN.
2. **Join an online community.**Sharing ideas and contacting people for direct feedback is more effective in a community setting.   Communities such as, Classroom and the Educator’s PLN provide a meaningful circle of experts.
3. **Join a Meetup group.**Meetups are common thread interest groups that meet in the real world.  The groups can also extend in social networks.  For instance, social studies teachers in your district or city might create a group to share teaching ideas.
4. **Become a beacon of light.**PLNs rely on open sharing of information.
5. **Don’t be afraid to ask questions.**  After all, PLNs are all about learning.  But don’t ask questions that you can easily research yourself.
6. **Be an active participant.**Brain power is the main asset of a PLN.  Spend some time to identify a specific cause and communicate it on your profile.  Let your knowledge of a specific cause help grow your PLN.  Keep up to date with your niche.  Stay relevant.  Try to post at least once a week.
7. **Remember to be polite and acknowledge contributions to the rightful owner.** Show common respect for the people in your network.  This may seem like common sense, but can be a pitfall.  It took me some time to learn “web etiquette” over the years, but it has helped me tremendously.   Send thank you notes, acknowledgements, and use your true voice.  Not only does it make the other person’s day, but it will help you gain more meaningful connections.
8. **Designate a professional and personal account.**I keep my social life on Facebook and my professional life on Twitter, LinkedIn, and Google+.
9. **Create a landing page.**  It may be a good idea to consolidate all of your accounts on a landing page.  A webpage or personal blog will make it easier for people to find you.  It will also create a space where you can showcase the different projects you are working on.
10. **Engage newbies.**It is best to include a mix of newbies, peers, and experts.