



Day 30

Be Professional

If you are a teacher who learns best in and with a group, you may want to seek out a Professional Learning Community (PLC) to support your work in your UDL classroom. A PLC provides a structure for collaboration with colleagues, along with professional growth and development. These groups are formed for the specific purpose of improving classroom practices and achieving better results for students.

In some schools and districts, time to meet with a learning community is embedded into the school day. Through PLCs, teachers learn from each other, share best practices, analyze student data, and plan for instruction. In other words, PLCs typically focus on issues directly related to differentiation and Universal Design for Learning.

If your district is not formally promoting PLCs and you can't find other educators interested in forming one, you may want to find an online community. Online PLCs allow teachers to guide their own learning and collaboration. Wikispaces (www.wikispaces.com), Twitter (twitter.com), and Ning (www.ning.com) are all popular tools that can be used to support your group. Use them to chat with colleagues, post ideas, share goals, and report progress.