

Group Project: Building A Personal Learning Network (PLN)

For the final project, you will break into working groups to expand your PLN.

As our class learning cohort is somewhat uneven, I want to allow you to create your group for the final.

Open the conversation to invite participants into a Final Project group via MS TEAMS – I am asking that each group have a minimum of 4 participants and a maximum of 5, and as you create the group, you consider asking those who want to collaborate with you to address their schedule and availability – do not leave others in a lurch to finish this assignment – I will be asking your classmates about your group participation after submission.

Their feedback will be noted in the final grading.

The assignment is structured around Building A PLN – I am looking for a creative dialogue between the group that reflects the themes of our course, the shifts that we have seen in learning, work, and communication, and the structure of a professional PLN.

Brainstorm with your group and keep me updated with your approach to creating either a written or media response to the assignment.

In previous terms, some students have created a podcast-style final project using ZOOM, an animated creation using Toonly, or a written submission – I will be available to guide and help with project structure throughout the next two weeks if you're looking for help with the assignment.

Keep in mind, we will have a few more blog assignments during the term (including this week) and a flexible closing week for the final assignment and course feedback.

The final assignment will be due on 2026/08/12 in conjunction with your final blog submissions & PLN Analysis due on August 18th, 2026

STEPS:

Let me know via MS TEAMS who is in your Final Project group, and we will create a TEAMS Pod for your team. If you use a third-party tool (messenger, iMessage, WeChat) to collaborate on notes, ensure you keep a record of how participants contributed, and please make this available if asked.

I will audit your assigned Final Project group periodically throughout the remainder of the month to assess participation and project development.

FINAL PROJECT OUTLINE:

Group Work Contract Expectations:

Your team should enter into a working contract divided into four major sections:

- Establishing team procedures
- Identifying expectations
- Timelines and milestones
- Specifying the protocol and consequences for failing to follow procedures and fulfil expectations

Assign tasks to be as specific as possible, and include a timeline and who is assigned to do each step.

Inform your instructor (Jesse) of who is in the final project group, and begin a conversation outside of the current course group work.

The Final Project reflects 40% of your final mark.

Inform your instructor within a week of the assignment announcement who has been chosen for your group

- Share your dialogue about how your group will work together via MS TEAMS for observation from the instructor.

FINAL PROJECT OUTLINE:

Building A Personal Learning Network (PLN)

Delivered via written submission, video creation, animation, and alternative media delivery (e.g. Podcast over Zoom).

The final assignment will consist of your group creating a walkthrough of PLN themes, platforms, and practices that you have explored during the term. Students should include a variety of discussions about how a PLN should be created, managed, and engaged, including dialogue about how a PLN interacts with social media platforms, highlighting aspects that were the most meaningful during their course trajectory, and any instances of personal experience devoted to a PLN within a professional capacity.

Marking will be based on evidence-based examples, the use of professional and engaging language, and the quality of presentation delivery. You will include descriptions of the process and steps that a person would need to take in order to build a personal learning network (PLN) using a variety of social media platforms that would best support your professional and personal learning goals.

Your completed media project should be between 10 and 15 minutes long, supported by a written outline and project discussion themes and goals. If you are choosing to submit a written submission, you will need to outline how group participants contributed to each written section.

Things to Consider:

- Describe the key characteristics (benefits/negatives) of any discussed social media platforms.
- What features & characteristics of existing media technologies make them effective for personal learning?
- How does the discussed technology allow you to enhance/develop your digital identity/reputation?
- What are social considerations that should be accounted for?
- What are the ways the technology tracks and uses your data – how can this be used to benefit a PLN?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the privacy, security and acceptable use policies for social media platforms?
- Provide examples of individuals who have used a PLN to become leaders in a field of interest and discuss their presence on the platform.
- How do they use social media platforms to build their reputation/presence?
- How will you know that your PLN is a success?
- Provide references and resources to your opinion and the team consensus.

FOOTNOTES TO BE INCLUDED:

- How has each group member contributed to the PLN project (please complete peer review once the project has been submitted)
- Reference list of any mentioned articles, studies, or notable social media instances.
- The end goal of this project is to engage the PLN you have created in this course and open discussion and engagement about the connected world we live in. Do not hesitate to include your learned and lived experiences with social media, gaming, professional development, media production, social commentary, and online engagement with others.
- The more you share and provide connections to course resources, social themes, and considerations of positive community engagement, the more your final project will reflect the learning outcomes of the course. Feel free to reference blog content from yourself or a classmate, reference course materials, or third-party materials that you think are of note.

You, as a group, decide how you want to shape the final project – we live in a media-driven climate where PLN plays a large role in how we curate, engage, and participate in mediated communications, and being reflective of your blogs will help open themes of conversation that may resonate in the project.

Although a written submission will be accepted, consider the modality of this course and consider creating something that reflects the media-connected experience we are all sharing this year.

This term, as an asynchronous class, we took time to support one another in a variety of mediums, and my effort to use my PLN to bring resources in for learning and discussion reflected what a PLN should be relied on to do – open dialogue, ask for time, and rely on another person with faith that they will accommodate and help. Not a single guest speaker asked for reciprocal time or financial remuneration to meet with us virtually – consider how you will develop a similar PLN in your professional endeavors, and give examples in your group discussion about your understanding of PLN from that vantage point.