



# From MOOCs to PLNs: Professional Development for English Teachers in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Aaron Royer, **English Language Fellow**

<https://tinyurl.com/ybumxodb>



# Intro Discussion

- How do you approach professional development?
- What, if any, online professional development activities do you participate in?
- What are challenges that teachers face in relation to professional development?



# Overview

- The Need
- Background
- What Are PLNs?
- Why Are They Useful?
- How-To Via Examples
- Final Remarks & Questions



# The Need

- Professional development (PD) activities are essential, but we lack time, money, etc...
- Can help deal with transition to more communicative instruction to meet new BNCC goals
- Can help us gain recognition and standing among colleagues



# Background

- Web 1.0
  - Static information controlled by web developers and companies who could hire them
- Web 2.0
  - Interactive, user-friendly, social, participatory
  - Ease of publication has led to an explosion of information



# Background

- How have these changes affected teacher professional development?
  - In the past, conferences, face-to-face classes, libraries
  - Nowadays, more options: blogs, podcasts, webinars, MOOCs, social-media ‘chats’
  - How do we organize all this?
- Web 3.0
  - Key concept is content curation



# What Are PLNs?

- A Personal Learning Network is a way to organize and curate your sources of PD
  - Network of learners who share and discuss information and ideas
  - Environment you have created for your studies
  - ‘Facebook feed of information related to your field’
- Popular platforms include Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn



# Why Are They Useful?

- Practice what we preach!
- ‘No man (or woman) is an island’: Innovation doesn’t happen in a vacuum
- Organized approach to professional development
- More efficient ‘troubleshooting’
- ....and perhaps job opportunities



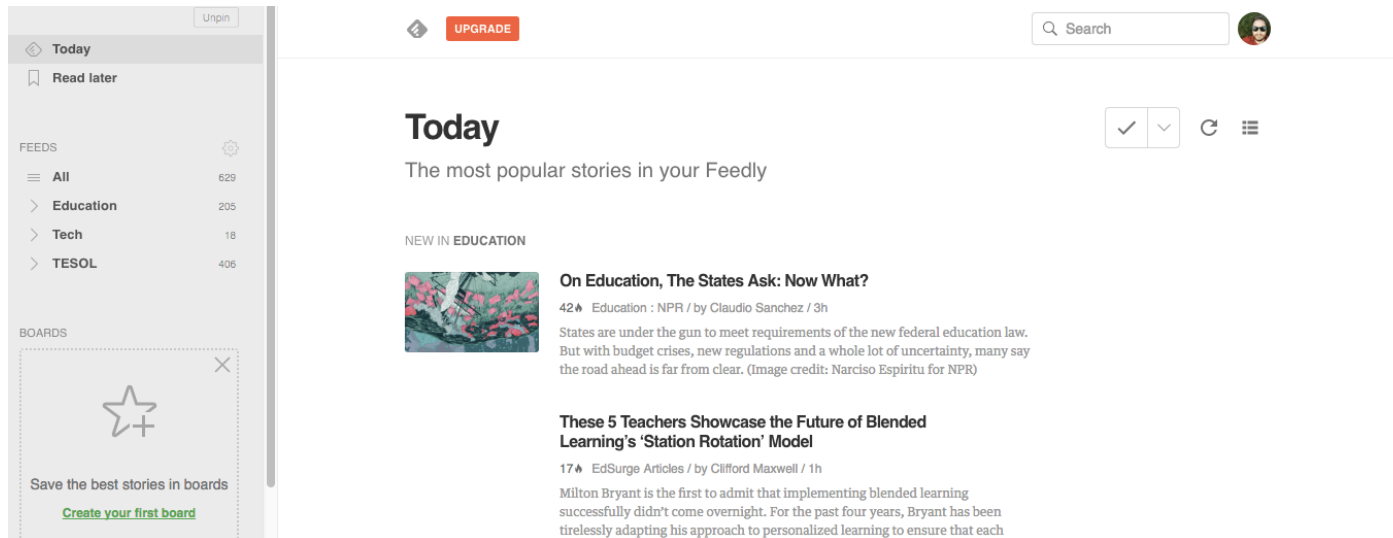
# How-To: Twitter



- Micro-blogging platform
- Perhaps most popular for PLNs at the moment
- Rants, questions, infographics, links, chats
- Build a network
- Search and chat using hashtags



# How-To: Feedly



- Organize various blogs/publications
- Explore and discover new sources
- Curate collections

# How-To: Medium



Write a :

**Aaron B. Royer**

Web developer. Language teacher and learner. EdTech enthusiast.  
[www.aaronbroyer.com](http://www.aaronbroyer.com)



162 Following 97 Followers ·  

Edit

- Blogging combined with social networking
- Morning edition & explore curated topics
- Follow keywords (TESOL, language teaching, language, etc.)



# How-To: MOOCs

- Online classes with unlimited enrollment
- Some are completely free and some have free and certificate options
  - Coursera
  - Edx
  - FutureLearn
  - American English



# How-To: Other

- American English Webinars
- Tea with BVP
  - Internet radio show about language teaching and learning on Thursdays at 3 ET
- YouTube Channels
  - NFLRChawaii
  - Musicuentos Black Box
  - TELL Project



# Coming Soon..

- Professional development video series
- Focus on solving problems in Brazilian EFL classrooms and transition to new BNCC
- Videos with tips, demonstrations, sample lesson plans, and space for comments and discussion



So, in closing, ....

Try PLNs...

“You’ll get by with a little help from your friends”

[aaronbroyer@gmail.com](mailto:aaronbroyer@gmail.com)