

Review of: "Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) for English Teachers as an Effective Alternative Framework for Professional Development"

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This is certainly a relevant topic as the notion of community has been much discussed as a vehicle for learning. Locating the research in your own context also shows local significance. However, the conceptualisation of community studied here, the PLC, could be framed better. For instance, most of the introduction deals with CPD in general until a sudden transition to the PLC in the final two sentences of this section. I also agree with one of the other reviewers that your introduction should state the research question(s). Later, it would strengthen your argument to contrast PLCs with other types of community, in particular Communities of Practice (especially as you cite Wenger in your definition of PLC.) You have used a methodology which supplies much data, but I was less convinced by your assertion that it incorporates phenomenology – this needs more explanation. Generally, there needs a fuller discussion of the methodology, for example the research setting (secondary education?) and characteristics of the participants. The discussion section contains much of interest, well illustrated by quotes from participants. It is clear that the PLC is a viable platform for CPD. To conclude, the data is valuable in this study but the research framework could be articulated more fully.