Using the PLTL Books

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The PLTL Books

• Guidebook: faculty-focused
• Handbook: student-focused
• Books produced by the Workshop Project
  – Project grew out of chemistry
  – Some material is too chemistry-focused
Guidebook Chapters

- Chapters 1-5 focus on pragmatics
  - generally useful
- Chapters 6-8 focus on theory
  - e.g. Vygotsky’s theory of learning
  - generally not useful
Guidebook Chapters

1. Overview: useful, but high-level
2. Peer leader experiences
   • Useful, short essays by leaders
3. Writing activities: too much chemistry
4. Selecting and training peer leaders
   • Excellent, with many details
5. Institutionalization
Handbook

• Eight chapters following by extensive supplemental documents
• Most chapters are useful
  – Writing quality varies
• Supplemental materials vary wildly in style
Handbook Chapters

1. Workshop philosophy:
   - Good, modulo some doctrinal issues
2. Excellent discussion of ethics
3. Group management issues
4-6: Learning theory material
   - Your mileage may vary
7. Race, class, gender: very good
8. Disabilities: good, but low chance of utility
Handbook Supplements

- Linked to the chapters
- Some academic papers
- Some essays by faculty and students
- “Reflections on Leader Training”, p. 95 is good
- Otherwise, no recommendations