The AMAZING Twitter-Tastic Teacher’s Guide

30 GREAT CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

HASHTAGS & PLN TIPS

The ULTIMATE
What’s Inside Our Book? (actually, it’s YOUR book!)

That’s right—we created this book just for you. Why? Because we believe learning should be fun, and social media tools like Twitter are designed for making learning just like that.

Here are 30 of the best uses we’ve found for Twitter in a modern classroom, along with the skills they develop and what each activity looks like. Pick your favourites, or go nuts and try them all!

After that, check out our list of Twitter hashtags that are all the rage in education. We also profile some of ways in which Twitter can be a useful tool for any teacher’s professional needs.

READY? SET? TWEET!
Create your own hashtags and do regular updates on current events, or subscribe to your favourite running news feeds. Discuss news stories and share opinions.
Research Roundup

You can search for blogs and other information on Twitter, or set up your own microblog and collect responses from all over the world.

* research skills
* critical thinking
* searching
* blogging
* organizing
* analyzing

Ready? Set? Tweet!

Type keywords into Twitter to access lots of microblogs on practically any subject. You can do searches by topic, location, URL, keyword, hashtag, and more.

Handy Tip

Putting “quote marks” around a term will yield much better search results!
Have students summarize a major event, philosophy, or scientific or mathematical concept. Ask them, "How would you sum this up in 140 characters or less?"
Students can tweet and respond to each other using a different language. They can summarize ideas and practice conversing, reading, and speaking in other languages.

Language skills

writing

ESL

global awareness

ethics

cultural familiarity

Handy Tip

Follow news and events in areas specific to the language and learn more!

Changing Twitter Language Settings

1. Sign in to your Twitter account.
2. Click the profile icon in the upper right corner and select Settings.
3. Choose your language from the drop-down menu.
4. Go to the bottom of the page and click on Save.
5. Enter password when prompted, and click Save Changes. You’re all done!

(source: Twitter Help Center)
The Buddy System

Sometimes people are absent from class for any number of reasons. Twitter can keep everybody informed on class news and assignments.

- teamwork
- communication
- trust
- empathy
- networking
- accountability

Teachers can post details on homework, points from class lessons, or lecture notes for absent students. They can also assign the absentee a class “buddy” to do this.

千里之行，始于足下！
Instant Feedback

Our digital kids like to get immediate rewards and feedback from teachers and peers. Use Twitter to send out feedback quickly.

- communication
- productivity
- engagement
- assessment
- constructive criticism

Feedback may give rise to questions, so just keep the discussion going!

Round robin time!!! Post your feedback on all the class projects on our feed, and explore and learn from your friends! #coolclassroom123

Provide instant feedback to the students on assignments, discussions, and ideas in real time. Engage them in some constructive peer assessments on class projects using Twitter.
Question Periods

Sometimes a question can be pressing or important, and Twitter allows kids who might be shy about speaking up in class to have a voice.

- communication
- organization
- self confidence
- connection
- class management

Encourage students to tweet about their learning process and challenges, too!

Schedule “question periods” so students can ask questions on the spot in an organized manner, so as to avoid teachers having to field too many questions at one time.
Students can create and share daily or weekly inspirational quotes with teachers and students. Include hashtags to follow content on Twitter that is also similar.

Inspiration Station

Twitter’s 140-character limit makes it a fun and challenging exercise for students to create motivational quotes for sharing with friends.

* peer support
* communication
* writing skills
* creativity
* critical thinking

Handy Tip

Have your students create and share an ebook collection of their quotes!

Students can create and share daily or weekly inspirational quotes with teachers and students. Include hashtags to follow content on Twitter that is also similar.

Global Digital Citizen Foundation
**Historical Voices**

Teachers in history class can have their students show understanding of content by having them step into the shoes of an historical figure.

- communication
- understanding
- creativity
- historical events
- presentation skills
- role playing

**Handy Tip**

Find interesting and fun tweets for your own history class! @HistClassroom

**Ask a question about an event of historical significance, and have the student tweet the answer in the character of the historical figure directly affected by the event.**

“He who lives in harmony with himself lives in harmony with the universe.”

–Marcus Aurelius

“Honesty is the first chapter of the book wisdom.”

–Thomas Jefferson

“Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.”

–Winston Churchill

“Let no man pull you so low as to hate him.”

–Martin Luther King Jr.

“I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart.”

–Anne Frank
Create a social writing community in your class. Follow blogs of your choice or some student-written blogs, and share ideas and opinions on Twitter about topics of interest.

Twitter links with Wordpress and other blogging platforms, so you can follow student blogs to see what they’re writing about.

- peer support
- communication
- writing skills
- creativity
- blogging
- journaling

Handy Tip: Get to know your audience—the idea is to entertain, inform, and inspire!
Students can use Twitter to connect with professionals in their field of interest. High school students can follow post-secondary schools they're interested in.

Pros and Con-nections

Students preparing to leave college and look for jobs can have short conversations and tweet questions to people in their field of interest.

- professionalism
- job-searching
- market research
- interview skills
- responsibility
- networking

Tips for Professional Networking on Twitter

- Create your profile as though it is your resume
- Use WeFollow or Twellow to find industry leaders
- Respond to tweets with courtesy
- Don’t tweet too much, but tweet consistently—make them count!
- Follow trending topics and hashtags

Students can use Twitter to connect with professionals in their field of interest. High school students can follow post-secondary schools they’re interested in.
Students can write and tweet micro-reviews on books, films, and music for media classes or to add to their personal feeds. They can use Twitter to spark discussions about them.

Top-Notch Reviews

Twitter lets you focus your opinions and thoughts when writing media critiques in film, literature, or other media studies classes.

- media studies
- Media Fluency
- literary skills
- assessment
- communication
- critical thinking

Skills

Ready? Set? Tweet!

Set up a challenge for students—best review in under 140 characters!

How to Analyze Male Characters in Book Reviews

Students can write and tweet micro-reviews on books, films, and music for media classes or to add to their personal feeds. They can use Twitter to spark discussions about them.

What's happening?

The importance of being Ernest: 2 boys with alter egos to escape real life. Each one uses the other's escape mechanism to get himself a bride.
Create surveys or quizzes and have students respond using tweets. The students who may be shy about speaking up will be able to contribute responses and also have a say.
Telling Tales Together

This is an exercise where students create stories by tweeting a phrase or a sentence to add to each previous entry—a chain of creativity.

- Creativity Fluency
- creative writing
- unifying ideas
- listening
- comprehension
- collaboration

Students create their own progressive poem or story. A student tweets out a “story starter” concept, and everyone else adds their own sentences to keep the story going.
Create a daily or a weekly subject challenge for the students to solve through Twitter communication. Try a word puzzle, a math challenge, or a quest to uncover a mystery.

Impromptu puzzles and quests in subjects can help develop content knowledge and also encourage peer support among students.

- collaboration
- comprehension
- Solution Fluency
- Information Fluency
- critical thinking
- taking direction

Skills

Get on the feed and then offer up occasional clues to the challenge!
Tweetable Galleries

A great place for creative students to share art and picture exhibits with their supporters is on Twitter, where imagery comes alive.

- Creativity Fluency
- presentation
- arts and media
- organization
- peer networking
- portfolio building

Handy Tip
Always be upbeat and positive when on Twitter—it’s a happy community!

The creative student can contribute regularly to their own microblog art gallery with Twitter. Post artwork and photo work, and use Twitter as a handy mini-portfolio tool.
Lesson Summaries

Students can sum up what they’ve learned—this is a great way to test students about what they remember from the day’s teaching.

- attention
- awareness
- listening skills
- communication
- comprehension
- assessment

Teachers can have students tweet a concise 140-character summary of a class or lesson to demonstrate what they have learned; a great way to measure engagement.

Use Twitter to give your students extra feedback on their summaries!
Create a Twitter feed for a class bulletin board, and keep everyone updated on any class-related news like changes in schedules or for quick reminders of upcoming events.
Terrific Teamwork

Twitter is perfect for kids who want to stay aligned with updates on group assignments, and on reports for group and individual progress.

- responsibility
- accountability
- focus
- organization skills
- communication
- task management

Handy Tip

Students can use TwooDo for great collaboration and team chats!

Let students create their own tweet-based system to check off milestones, update progress, and hold each other accountable during projects they collaborate on.
Bite-Sized Teaching

Share subject-specific tidbits and facts that help with any subject like medical terms, historical quotes, fun facts, and more.

* communication
* networking
* idea sharing
* subject awareness
* comprehension
* Information Fluency

Tweet subject-specific tidbits out to students anytime you like. Set up an account for just one single topic, or as a general information outlet and use subject-specific hashtags.

Tweeting bite-sized teachable moments is a great way to build your PLN!

The Superficial Branch of the Radial Nerve passes along the front of the radial side of the forearm to the commencement of its lower 1/3.
Global Gatherings

Students can use Twitter to share project ideas and information with students all over the world, and collaborate with them on projects.

- communication
- networking
- idea sharing
- global awareness
- cultural connection
- Collaboration Fluency

Students can connect via Twitter with other students across the world and collaborate on projects. They can incorporate web video conferencing tools like Skype.

Ready? Set? Tweet!

Keep active on the feeds for things like brainstorming and resource sharing!
Connect to Parents

Updating parents on student progress, new school events, meetings, and more is a great use for Twitter between parents and teachers.

- communication
- building trust
- transparency
- networking
- parent/teacher relations

SKILLS

Handy Tip
Ensure parents know all about any rules and guidelines set for students!

Tips for Parent/Teacher Networking on Twitter

- Keep parents regularly informed
- Respond to questions/conflicts promptly and concisely
- Set an example for both parents and students with social media
- Engage in two-way conversations with parents
- Get to know individual schedules whenever possible in order to make the most effective communication

Use Twitter to connect with parents and keep them updated on student work and progress, special projects and school events, scheduling changes, and important meetings.
Students can contribute original content to a class blog, newsletter, or ePaper by using hashtags for each specific section. They can write focus pieces and share opinions.
Ask students to learn about a famous character from history or their favourite books and develop Twitter personalities for them, then send out tweets in the role of that person.
Have students look into creating a personal brand, how it can benefit them in the future, and how to start their branding process using social media tools like Twitter.

**Bold Brand Building**

Many digital-age professionals use brands to create loyalty, and using Twitter for this is something students can start working on in school.

- self expression
- publishing
- organization
- Creativity Fluency
- identity
- media and marketing

**Brand-Building Checklist**

- Choose your Twitter name
- Decide what you offer
- Show how good you are
- Create a marketing plan
- Use third-party apps
- Establish support networks
- Tweet regularly
- Make it fun and exciting!

**Skills**

Tweet regularly and actively to keep your brand name in the Twitter-verse!
Scavenger Hunts

Explore, discover, and learn—Twitter is terrific for hosting directions and clues while sending students on educational scavenger hunts.

Solution Fluency  
communication  
critical thinking  
collaboration  
taking direction

Handy Tip
Scavenger hunts are a great teamwork and problem-solving student activity!

Place scavenger hunt clues and directions for students to follow on Twitter. Have them share progress with their team members and notify others of their progress in real-time.
Sharing Video Magic

You can post great video updates on Twitter. Quickly and easily share your news and assignments, creative work, and more.

- publishing
- creativity
- Media Fluency
- digital production
- journaling
- networking

**Skills**

Also use Twiddeo to post video updates on your Twitter feed with ease!

Teachers and students can share videos of skits and scenes, tutorials and walkthroughs, video journals, and anything else relevant and interesting to lessons and to student life.

Twitter Video Apps [Links]

TwitLENS: a simple site with full instructions for uploading

Periscope: app made by Twitter for easy Twitter video tweets

TwitCam: for live video streaming on Twitter
Using Twitter on field trips and classroom excursions, any student can post updates with text or quick video, and even share some teachable moments with friends and peers.

Field Trip Progress

The power of Twitter can keep all students and teachers up-to-date on field trips and class excursions both local and abroad.

* communication
* collaboration
* distance learning
* focus
* networking
* Media Fluency

Just tap on your location marker as you create your tweet to share locations!

Watch President Obama’s “Virtual Field Trip” with students around the country at 10:50am ET → go.wh.gov/BooksForAll #BooksForAll
Meme Tracking

What's trending on Twitter can be a valuable exercise in Information and Media Fluencies by getting students to do some “meme-tracking.”

* research skills
* sociology
* communication
* Media Fluency
* analyzing trends
* Information Fluency

Tweet your own creative memes on Twitter and get some followers!

Choose ads and creative meme examples to track using Twitter. Examine how they develop and how people are responding to them. This shows how ideas spread virally.
As you adopt Twitter in teaching practices, develop guidelines and some tip training for your students. This will ensure that your students align together in using Twitter.
Teachers in the Twitter-verse

Sure, you bet all you digital educators out there get to have some fun! If you want to connect with other pros in your field, expand your PLN, or share professional resources, Twitter can make it happen. Be sure to check out the links below for great Twitter teacher resources!

- Get useful information from others by following either subject- or topic-specific hashtags.
- Share links, photos, and videos with the colleagues who are following you, or who you may be following.
- Establish followers by offering useful Twitter content from your own unique expertise.
- Nurture your own professional development with Twitter connections and updates.

The Teacher's Guide to Twitter
Twitter and Growing Your PLN
Twitter Tools and Web Apps
Twitter4Teachers Wiki
Twitter Hashtags for Education

General Purpose Tags
#edchat—connect with educators worldwide
#education—topics from class management to homeschooling
#GlobalEd—all about global education
#Langchat—a place for language teachers
#edtech—relating to the use of technology in education
#edapp—all about educational apps
#digitalcitizenship—all about digital citizenship practices
#Bullying—bullying resources, help, and support
#cyberbullying—resources on cyberbullying
#comments4kids—find blogs to comment and post on
#gamemooc—everything to do with gamed based learning
#ptchat—a special domain for parents
#lrnchat—connect with other educators and discuss learning
#urbaned—topics on urban education
#educoach—instructional coaching for improving education
#dtK12chat—chat about design thinking in education

Subject-Specific Tags
#scichat—Science
#engchat—English
#SSChat—Social Studies
#HistoryTeacher—History
#STEM—STEM Education
#PhysicsEd—Physics
#artsed—Arts and Education
#Ecbusteach—Economics and Business Studies
#musedchat—Music
#eltchat—English Language Education
#edtechchat—educational technology and citizenship
#PEGeeks—PE, Technology
#RETeacher—Religious Studies
#GeographyTeacher—Geography
#ASEChat—Association of Science and Education
#langchat—Foreign Language Education

Where would a Twitter book be without a whole mess of hashtags? These are some of the most popular on the education feeds today. Join the conversations and tweet with colleagues old and new!
Meet your new best friend in the classroom.

The Solution Fluency Activity Planner is an exciting collaborative tool for creating and exploring lesson plans that engage, inspire, and enable today’s modern students.

- Access thousands of inquiry and PBL units
- Create your own custom lesson plans
- Align with your curricular standards
- Collaborate with a global network of educators

Start Planning for Free!