The Leader in e-Safety Education

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Think Before You Tweet – How to Make a Quality TWEET

A tweet is limited to 140 characters, so it usually takes some thought to make the best use of those characters!

A Quality Tweet is:

- Specific
- Informative
- Precise
- Clear
- Creative
- Rich in content
- Valuable to a conversation

A Quality Tweet might also include a resource link or a photo.

A Quality Tweet does NOT include:

- Bad language
- Gossip
- Mean comments
- Information unrelated to the conversation

Activity

Think about what makes a good tweet and a bad tweet. In the space available, create an example for each of the bullet points on this page.

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Twitter Etiquette

Netiquette is made from the word “etiquette” and refers to using good manners (the way you behave) when communicating online. Twitter etiquette is about using good manners when using Twitter.

When using Twitter for school assignments, Twitter etiquette includes using the general rules of good behavior you use at school, as well as guidelines for producing good written work.

Twitter in School – Etiquette Tips:

- Follow your teacher’s guidelines for using Twitter in class.
- Do not use the class Twitter account for anything other than class assignments or projects.
- Use appropriate language.
- Be polite and respectful of others in all tweets.
- Think *quality* over quantity: Keep your tweet short and to the point.
- Add something of value to the conversation: Add to the ideas of others and avoid just copying what someone else says.
- Give credit where credit is due: Try to use your own original thoughts and ideas, but if you need to share the ideas of someone else, give them credit.
- Respond with an answer if someone asks you a question or makes a response to your tweet.
- Don’t use Twitter to spread gossip or other information that is not related to an assignment.

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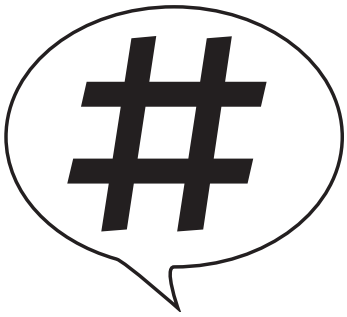
Hashtag Savvy



Hashtags are a simple way to organize Twitter conversations by topic. When used for class activities, a hashtag is used to identify which activity a student is referring to. A search for a specific hashtag will reveal the set of messages that contain the phrase.

It doesn't matter where the hashtag is placed in the tweet. It can occur anywhere in the message – at the beginning, middle or end.

Clicking on a hashtagged word or phrase in any message shows you all other tweets marked with that same keyword or phrase.

Use hashtags appropriately:

- Make sure the hashtag used is directly relevant to the subject matter of the tweet.
- For class tweets, use the hashtags identified by your teacher to make sure your tweet is associated with the correct activity.
- Avoid spam with hashtags – don't over-tag a single tweet with multiple hashtags. It is recommended that no more than two hashtags be used per tweet.

The first high-profile application of the hashtag was by San Diego, California resident Nate Ritter, who included #sandiegofire in his frequent posts on the October 2007 wildfires that occurred all over San Diego County and threatened many populated areas.

Create Your Own Hashtags

One hashtag can have several meanings. For instance, #tt can stand for everything from Trending Topics, to Travel Tuesday, to Twitter Takeover. You can use any appropriate keyword or phrase for your hashtag, but it's always a good idea to check ***www.tagdef.com*** for different tag definitions.

Trends

Beginning July 1, 2009, Twitter began to hyperlink all hashtags to search results containing all recent posts mentioning either the hashtag or the standard spelling of such words, provided that such words are written in the same order of characters.

In 2010, Twitter introduced "Trending Topics" on the Twitter front page, to highlight frequently used hashtags. Today, you will find trending topics in the "Trends" section of your Twitter homepage.

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Finding Followers Based on Hashtags

Classroom learning experiences can be enhanced by using hashtags to help you find groups of followers who share your same interests. For example, are you going to start a #WildlifeGarden? Searching Twitter for that hashtag comes up with some great suggestions on who to follow and sites to visit.

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Activity Briefs

Remember to make tweeting part of your classroom ROUTINE. It should be an integral part of the day, not a separate subject.

20 ideas for incorporating Twitter into daily classroom learning.

1. Have everyone compose a tweet on paper and then vote on the best quality tweet to publish.

2. Assign students to tweet about specific subject or topics. Option: Have students collaborate on the creation of appropriate, relevant hashtags.

3. Assign a Twitterer of the day to post information about class activities and progress. This is a good one to use Twitter to share class activities with parents.

4. Have students use Twitter to record observations of science projects.

5. Use the 140 character format to reinforce how to be concise in writing.

6. Write a progressive, collaborative story in tweets. Assign each student a number and have them write a continuation of the story from the tweet of the student ahead of them. Option: Students agree to take turns to contribute to an account or story over a period of time.

7. Create a progressive poem. Similar to the collaborative story mentioned above, students compile poetry as each student contributes one line that flows with the one written before.

8. Use Twitter to practice descriptive writing. Assign something to describe and limit each student description to one tweet.

9. Have each student tweet about a current event and use the tweets as a foundation for a current events discussion.

10. Create a “Twit Board” to notify students of assignments, schedules, events, or other important information.

11. Ask students to read an article or chapter and then post a brief summary of the key point(s).

12. Share a “Twit Link” (hyperlink). Have students regularly share one new hyperlink to a useful Web site they have found. This is a good activity to supplement a specific class project.

13. Follow a famous person and document their progress. For example, during the recent U.S. Presidential elections, many people followed @BarackObama and kept up to date with his speeches, etc.

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14. Choose a famous person from the past and create a Twitter account for them. Choose an image which represents the historical figure and over a period of time write regular tweets in the role of that character, in a style and using the vocabulary you think they would have used (e.g., William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar).

15. Include your Twitter followers to provide ideas for assignments. For example, to inspire students with ideas of what to write about, provide a hashtag like #ideasforwriting and ask followers, like other classes and teachers, to tweet their best ideas.

16. Use the 140 character format to write poems.

17. Follow an issue or topic through Twitter. Use the search feature to research what others are tweeting about the issue or topic.

18. Role play. Have students tweet in character – ideas and quotes from historical figures or literary characters.

19. Track the government. Many local and national government organizations maintain their own Twitter feeds which students can track and learn from.

20. Write a review. Use the Twitter format to write micro-reviews of movies, books, music, etc.

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Class Participation in Twitter Project

PARENT PERMISSION FORM

Teacher's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Student's Name: _____

Class Twitter Account Username: _____

I give permission for my child to use the class Twitter account named above to participate in learning activities.

I understand that the Twitter account is managed and monitored by the classroom teacher for educational purposes only.

_____	_____	_____
Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian	**Printed name of Parent or Guardian**	**Date**

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