# Twitter for Teachers: A Primer



### **Vocabulary**

**Twitter** Social media site found at twitter.com

**Tweet** Written microblog of 140 characters or less posted through Twitter

**PLN** Professional/Personal Learning Network; professionals you follow on Twitter

Handle Name on Twitter (@\_\_\_?\_\_)

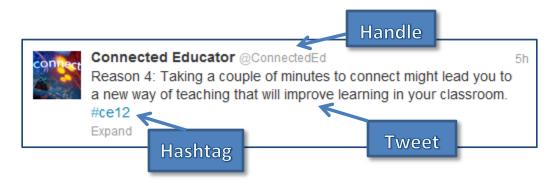
**Hashtag** Used to link tweets together by like topic or subject (#\_\_?\_\_)

Chats Discussions that occur at a given time and are linked through a hashtag

**Follow** Allows you to see all tweets sent out by a particular person or group

**Follower** Someone who follows your Twitter handle

#### **Anatomy of a Tweet**



#### **Basic Etiquette Expectations**

- 1. Create a specific Twitter account (handle) for your educational endeavors
- 2. Remember to include "Thoughts and tweets are my own" in your profile
- 3. Be professional at all times
- 4. Be active and engaged, but also be willing to listen and learn
- 5. Start small and grow as you feel comfortable
- 6. If you are unsure of something, ask
- 7. Provide resources to share with colleagues (taking is OK, but remember to also give)

#### **Good Starting Points for Following**

Eric Sheninger (@NMHS\_Principal) Principal of New Milford High School in NJ

Todd Whitaker (@toddwhitaker) Author/Professor from Indiana

Jeffrey Bradbury (@teachercast) Educator Resource Site from Philadelphia

Jerry Blumengarten (@cybraryman1) Over 30,000 Resources

## **Major Chats, Times, and Focus**

Chat	Focus	Time
#edchat	Covers everything education. Chat stream is	Tuesday
	ongoing, but chat officially runs twice a week	12PM and 7PM
#ptchat	Covers a wide variety of topics, but mainly covers	Wednesday
	parental engagement in schools and communities.	9PM
#satchat	Covers issues administrators face at the school	Saturday
	and district level. Good discussion for those	7:30AM
	interested in becoming an administrator.	10:30AM
#21stedchat	Focuses on 21 <sup>st</sup> Century teaching and learning.	Sunday 8PM
#edtech	Educational technology	Ongoing
#mathchat	Mathematics education	Thursday 8PM
#ageduchat	Agricultural education	See facebook.com/theagedupIn
#apbio	Advanced Placement Biology	Monday 8PM
#sschat	Social Studies	Monday 7PM
#engchat	English	Monday
		7PM
#musedchat	Music Education	Monday
		8PM
#spedchat	Special Education	Tuesday 8:30PM
#libchat	School Librarians/Media Specialists	Wednesday
		8PM
#ntchat	New Teacher Chat	Wednesday
		8PM
#chemchat	Chemistry	Wednesday
		8:30PM
#langchat	Language Teachers	
		Thursday 8PM
#psychat	Psychology Teachers	Thursday 8PM
#teachchat	General discussion for teachers	Wednesday 9PM
		Thursday
#Irnchat	Discussion on learning	8:30PM
Ctata Chata		8.30PM
State Chats Monday		
#aledechat	Alabama EdChat	Monday 10PM
#arkedchat	Arkansas EdChat	Thursday 9PM
#edchatri	Rhode Island EdChat	Sunday
		8PM
#iaedchat	Iowa EdChat	Sunday
		9PM
#mdedchat	Maryland EdChat	Tuesday
		8PM

<sup>\*</sup>All times listed are Eastern Standard Time

#### **The Chat Process**

There are hundreds of educational chats occurring each week on Twitter. These chats are made up of tweets that link through a common hashtag. The chat process is simple, but takes some practice to maximize learning.

#### The Process

- Step 1: Locate the hashtag (i.e. #mdedchat) for the chat that you wish to participate in
- Step 2: Enter the hashtag into the search box on Twitter (upper right magnifying glass) or onto a feed application (i.e. HootSuite; TweetDeck)
- Step 3: The moderator will introduce the topic and ask that everyone identify themselves
- Step 4: The moderator will offer a question (often written "Q1: How do...")
- Step 5: Reply to the question by creating a tweet that begins with..."A" and the number of the question
- Step 6: Continue engaging in the chat by responding to questions or by engaging individuals in conversations related to responses
- Step 7: Many chats archive the chat through some means (i.e. Storify). Tweet the link to your followers to keep the conversation going and to share the discussion

### Chat Etiquette

While there are no rules for Twitter chats, there are some general accepted practices:

- 1. Do not argue through the chat. The chats are professional conversations; it is OK to disagree and to debate, but the tone should stay positive.
- 2. If you see a response you like, retweet or favorite it. Share the wealth with your PLN.
- 3. When responding to the moderator's initial questions, use an "A" followed by the question number before your response (i.e. A5: Educators should...)

It is not uncommon for a chat hashtag to be used away from the chat to link resources. If you feel it is worth sharing you want more to see it, so tag the tweet with the hashtag for chats that may find the resource useful.