

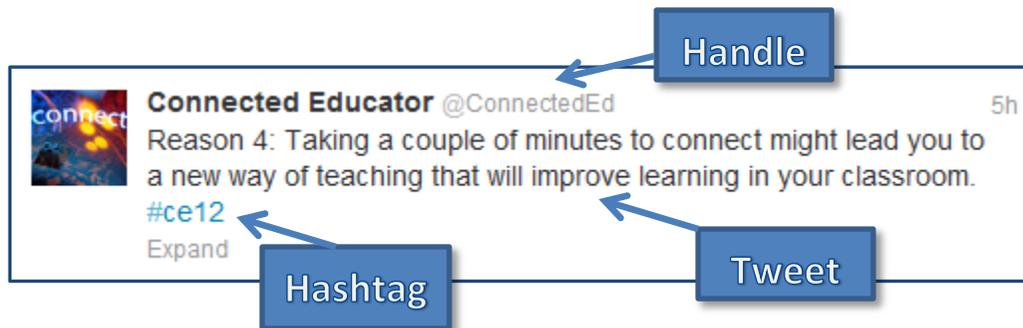
Twitter for Teachers: A Primer



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 Shenerger (@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 ongoing, but chat officially runs twice a week	Tuesday 12PM and 7PM
#ptchat	Covers a wide variety of topics, but mainly covers parental engagement in schools and communities.	Wednesday 9PM
#satchat	Covers issues administrators face at the school and district level. Good discussion for those interested in becoming an administrator.	Saturday 7:30AM 10:30AM
#21stedchat	Focuses on 21 st Century teaching and learning.	Sunday 8PM
#edtech	Educational technology	Ongoing
#mathchat	Mathematics education	Thursday 8PM
#ageduchat	Agricultural education	See facebook.com/theagedupln
#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
#lrnchat	Discussion on learning	Thursday 8:30PM
State Chats		
#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

*All times listed are Eastern Standard Time

FOR ADDITIONAL CHATS PLEASE VISIT: <http://www.cybraryman.com/edhashtags.html>

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.