HOW TO...

Use Twitter

In Your Classroom

Ask a Tech Teacher™

How to use Twitter In your Classroom

Ask a Tech Teacher™

How to Use Twitter

Vocabulary	Problem solving	Common Core
• *140 characters* • *Ampersand* • *Backchannel* • *Characters* • *Digital footprint* • *Digital rights* • *Hashtag* • *Headlining* • *PLN* • *Social media* • *Stream* • *Tweet* • *Tweet-up* • *Twitter* • *Virtual*	• *I can't find tweet stream (use #hashtags)* • *Message is longer than 140 characters (edit it)* • *I posted my notes but they didn't show on stream (use #hashtag?)* • *How do I write to just my class (use @ and user name)* • *I'm poking friends with #hashtags—they understand (anyone with #hashtag can read)* • *Why won't my teacher let me check Twitter during class?* • *My parents won't let me use Twitter at home. What do I do?*	*CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.1,4,6* *CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.8-10* *CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.3d,4,6* *CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.3d,4,6* *CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.3d,4,6* *CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.2b* *CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.2d* *CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.6-8*
Time *45 min, 5 min x ?*	**NETS-S Standards** *2, 4, 5*	**Grade** *6-8*

Essential Question

How do I tailor my writing to task, purpose, and audience?

Overview

Summary

Introduce the brevity of Twitter's 140-character limit in writing a communication. Use it in a variety of tasks where that sort of pithiness is best-suited.

Big Ideas

Writing is adapted to the task at hand, the communication goal, and audience being addressed.

Materials

Internet, class Twitter account, iPads (if using these), Chromebooks or other digital devices

Teacher Preparation

- Test online tools to be sure links are still active from the last time you used them.
- If you've taught this lesson before and have resources collected, do a quick Google search to see if anything new has arrived you want to know about and should share with students.
- Know what other teachers and parents think about using social media in class
- Have a thorough discussion with all stakeholders on using Twitter (and other social media), best practices, considerations. Consider co-teaching with other teachers.
- Something happen you weren't prepared for? No worries. Common Core is about critical thinking and problem solving. Show students how you fix the emergency without a meltdown.

Steps

_____**Required skill level: Understand social media; familiarity with Twitter**

_____Before beginning, put backchannel device onto Smartscreen (Today's Meet, Socrative, Padlet, class Twitter account, GAFE form) to track student comments throughout class..

_____Twitter is one of the most popular forms of social media, but there is a loud discussion going on about students using it in education—not just Twitter, but Facebook, Pinterest, and their ilk. There is no doubt technology is an important educational tool in the classroom, but expanding to social media requires more—supervision? Training? Guidance? Attention. For example, as of this printing, Twitter doesn't have age requirements. That doesn't mean use it for all ages—it means use your discretion.

_____ Top reasons why teachers use Twitter include:

- *To stay in touch with parents*
- *To stay in touch with students*
- *For last-minute updates on classwork*
- *An innovative approach to teaching writing*
- *Student collaboration on classwork*

5 ways Teachers think Twitter helps education:

1. ***Brings the world into class***
2. ***Aids communication between home and school***
3. ***Becomes a personal learning network for teachers, administrators, even (older) students***
4. ***Collects and memorializes***

_____These make sense. Middle school students are more likely to be on social network than their class webpage. Isn't it more efficient to reach them where they 'live'?

Pages deleted from Lesson Plan for Preview

Backchannel

_____The 'backchannel' is communication happening in the classroom not from the presenter.

_____'Backchannel devices' are communication methods that encourage students to share thoughts and ideas, even questions, while a lesson is going on. Typically, comments show up on class Smartscreen, shared with all classmates. Students read and respond. Teacher uses them to notice when students get/don't get a topic s/he is covering.

_____Why use a 'backchannel? Here are a few reasons:

- *Know what engages students*
- *Extend ideas students are interested ins*

- *Provide a voice to shy students*
- *Prevent monopolizing of class by gregarious students*

_____Popular options are Google Forms (if you are a GAFE—Google Apps for Education—school), Padlet, Socrative, Today's Meet. And Twitter. Students bring up class account on iPads, Chromebooks, or other class digital device and communicate questions, concerns, ideas during class.

_____Consider this: You're doing the lecture part of your teaching (we all have some of that), or you're walking the classroom helping where needed. Students tweet questions/comments that show up on Smartscreen. You see where everyone is stuck, which question stumps them, and answer it in real time. The class barely slows. Not only can you see problems, students get/give instant feedback without disrupting class.

To build a foundation for college and career, students need to learn to use writing as a way of offering and supporting opinions, demonstrating understanding of the subjects they are studying, and conveying real and imagined experiences and events. They learn to appreciate that a key purpose of writing is to communicate clearly to an external, sometimes unfamiliar audience, and they begin to adapt the form and content of their writing to accomplish a particular task and purpose. They develop the capacity to build knowledge on a subject through research projects and to respond analytically to literary and informational sources. To meet these goals, students must devote significant time and effort to writing, producing numerous pieces over short and extended time frames throughout the year.

--Common Core

Collaboration with classmates

_____As students work on homework or a project after school, they collaborate with team members or classmates via Twitter using #hashtags. As they're working, they read the stream to see what's been said and then join in.

_____**Students learn to share--**Start a tweet stream to share research websites. Have each student share their favorite (using a #hashtag — *#ancientgreecewebsite*). Encourage them to RT posts they found relevant or helpful.

Journaling

_____If students will be journaling, Twitter is a great way to summarize ideas and thoughts. Because Tweets are so short, most students won't mind coming up with a reflection (of 140 characters).

_____ This can be a summative assessment, a study guide for an upcoming quiz, or a simple way to inform yourself on whether students understood the lesson.

Note-taking

Assessment

Pick what works for your grade level

_____Can students transfer learning to life?

_____Did student join class conversations? Work well in a group?

_____Did student safely and effectively use the internet (where required)?

_____Did student use academic and domain-specific language, as well as correct language conventions, when speaking to class, classmates and you?

_____Did student understand the juxtaposition of 'technology' and 'education'?

_____Did student use correct keyboarding while typing?

_____Did student use Twitter outside of class?

_____Did student use Twitter as a backchannel and/or note-taking device during class?

_____Did student use #hashtags and join #specific conversations?

_____Did student participate in a Tweetup (if there was one?

_____Did student transfer knowledge from other lessons?

_____Did student try to solve problems (tech and otherwise) independently before requesting assistance from classmates and/or you?

_____Is student engaged, making a best effort to accomplish lesson goals?

_____Did student follow all Common Core writing conventions in using Twitter?

_____Was student a risk-taker, curious about new technology (i.e., backchannel devices, note-taking tools)?

_____Did student understand that digital tools used were alternatives to paper-and-pencil used other times?

_____While investigating, did student enjoy the experience?

_____**Other**_____

_____

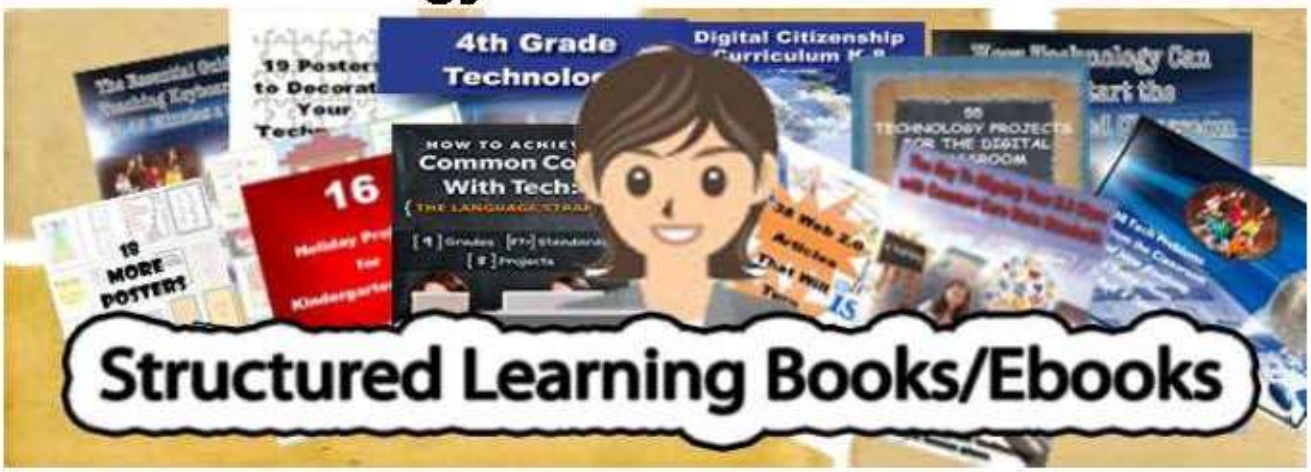
_____

_____.

Other Singles from Structured Learning

- 15 Web Tools in 15 Days
- Blogging
- Brainstorming
- Bridge Building
- Debate
- Digital Book Report
- Digital Note-taking
- Digital Quick Stories
- Digital Quick Writes
- Digital Timelines
- Gamification
- Genius Hour
- Google Apps
- Internet Search and Research
- Khan Academy
- Service Learning
- Write an Ebook
- Write with Twitter

SL Technology Books for Your Classroom



Which book	Price (print/digital/ Combo)	How Many
K-8th Tech Textbook (each)	*$29.99-32.99/23.99-26.99/48.58-53.99+p&h*	
K-6 Combo (all 7 textbooks)	*$190.74/$153.84/$344.57 + p&h*	
K-8 Combo (all 7 textbooks)	*$246.52/$200.62/$447.14+ p&h*	
35 More Projects for K-6	*$31.99/25.99/52.18 + p&h*	
55 Tech Projects—Vol I, II, Combo	*$32.99 /$59.38–digital only (free shipping)*	
K-8 Keyboard Curriculum	*$29.95/25.95/50.31 + p&h*	
K-8 Digital Citizenship Curriculum	*$29.95/25.99/50.38 + p&h*	
Common Core—Math, Lang., Read.	*$26.99 ea/72.87 for 3–digi only (free ship'g)*	
K-5 Common Core Projects	*$29.95/23.99/48.55 + p&h*	
16 Holiday Projects	*$14.99 (digital only) + p&h*	
19 Posters for the Tech Lab	*$6.99 (digital only)*	
18 More Posters for the Tech Lab	*$12.99 (digital only)*	
98 Tech Tips From Classroom	*$9.99 (digital only) + p&h*	
760+ Tech Ed Websites	*$14.99 (digital only) + p&h*	
Tech Ed Scope and Sequences	*$14.99 (digital only) + p&h*	
New Teacher Survival Kit (K-5)	*$338.21/$287.85/$567.08+ p&h*	
New Teacher Survival Kit (K-6)	*$370.20/$314.84/$620.16 + p&h*	
New Teacher Survival Kit (6-8)	*$280.83/$261.83/$415.74 + p&h*	
Bundles of lesson plans	*$7.99 and up—digital only (free shipping)*	
Mentoring (1 hr. at a time)	*$50/hr*	
Year-long tech curriculum help	*$100 per year (online)*	
Consulting/seminars/webinars	*Call or email for prices*	
	Total	

Free sample? Visit Structured Learning LLC website
Fill out this form (prices subject to change)
Email Zeke.rowe@structuredlearning.net
Pay via Paypal, Credit Card, Amazon, TPT, pre-approved school district PO

Structured Learning
Premiere Provider of Technology Teaching Books to the Education Community