

English Language and Literature, University of Waterloo
November 1, 2016

Tommy Mayberry, tommy.mayberry@uwaterloo.ca

Using Twitter in the Classroom

Workshop Outcomes

By the end of this workshop, you will be able to:

1. **Craft** strong Tweets and **navigate** Twitter successfully
2. **Implement** teaching strategies with Twitter in your classroom
3. **Identify** teaching uses of other social media platforms

Activity #1: Designing Effective Tweets

1.i – Automatic Accounts

You will be shown a photograph. First thoughts and impressions are key to this exercise, so please avoid being (overly) reflective at this stage of the activity: work solely with your immediate, automatic ideas.

In the space provided below, please jot down:

1. An exclamatory statement related to the photo and to your first impressions of it
- OR**
2. A descriptive statement related to the photo and to your first impressions of it:

1.ii – Innovative Inventory

Considering this same photograph, as well as your recorded statement above, please jot down as many key words (up to ten) that initially came to mind and/or that now come to mind.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

*1.iii – Creative Commentary**

*[Note: Additional worksheet. Will be appended]

“Designing Effective Tweets” – Debrief

Please use the space provided below to record any thoughts, ideas, tips, etc. that you found relevant, surprising, and/or useful from our debrief of the “Designing Effective Tweets” activity.

YouTube video: “Top 5 Great Twitter Tips for Beginners”

→ by Bryan Harris at Buffer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePb9_Qe19Pc

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Why would I want to use Twitter in my teaching?

Please use the space provided to record any tips and tricks, ideas, notes, etc. that appeal to you and/or about which you have any questions/concerns.

Twitter for Discussion and Networking

Please use the space provided to record any tips and tricks, ideas, notes, etc. that appeal to you and/or about which you have any questions/concerns.

Twitter as Authentic Assessment

Please use the space provided to record any tips and tricks, ideas, notes, etc. that appeal to you and/or about which you have any questions/concerns.

Activity #2: “What if I don’t like Twitter?” Discussion

Let’s start brainstorming ways that we can take our understanding of Twitter as a translatable platform in post-secondary classroom teaching and assessment and apply it to other social media platforms – namely, **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **Snapchat**.

Please use the space provided below to record any thoughts, ideas, tips, etc. that you find relevant, surprising, and/or useful from our discussion activity.

Additional Resources:

Blair, Alasdair. "Democratising the Learning Process: The Use of Twitter in the Teaching of Politics and International Relations." *Politics* 33.2 (2013): 135-45.

CTE's Twitter "Teaching Tips" page: <https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-resources/teaching-tips/educational-technologies/all/twitter>

Dr. Monica Rankin's Twitter video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WPVWDkF7U8>

Evans, Chris. "Twitter for teaching: Can social media be used to enhance the process of learning?" *British Journal of Educational Technology* 45.5 (2014): 902-915.

Fernández-Ferrer, Maite and Elena Cano. "The influence of the internet for pedagogical innovation: using twitter to promote online collaborative learning." *International Journal of Educational Technology in Higher Education* 13.22 (2016): 1-15.

Frey, Bruce B., Vicki L. Schmitt, and Justin P. Allen. "Defining Authentic Classroom Assessment." *Practical Assessment Research & Evaluation* 17.2 (2012): 1-18.

Johnson, Kirsten A. "The effect of *Twitter* posts on students' perceptions of instructor credibility." *Learning, Media and Technology* 36.1 (March 2011): 21-38.

Kassens-Noor, Eva. "Twitter as a teaching practice to enhance active and informal learning in higher education: The case of sustainable tweets." *Active Learning in Higher Education* 13.1 (2012): 9-21.

Mark Sample's "Practical Advice for Teaching with Twitter":
<http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/practical-advice-for-teaching-with-twitter/26416>