Using Twitter Chats for Class Discussions and Program Community Building

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Agenda

• What is a Twitter Chat?
• Using Twitter Chats for class discussions
• Using Twitter Chats for program community building
• Suggested steps
• Tools that might help
• Time to chat!
What is a Twitter Chat?

• Synchronous activity on Twitter
• Each post is tagged with a specific hashtag
• Host usually provides questions or prompts (Q1, Q2, Q3, …) with the selected hashtag
• Participants respond to questions or prompts (A1, A2, A3, …) with the selected hashtag
• Public – anyone searching on that hashtag can see and participate
Using Twitter Chat for Class Discussions

• The questions you ask:
  • Consider questions that stir debate
    • "Which is better and why?"
    • "What would you do?"
  • Ask students to apply course concepts to their own experiences
    • "When did you experience an example of that?"
    • "Who in your organization portrays this character?" (no real names)

• Ask students who participated to email you their Twitter handle to help with participation grading.

• Consider offering a backchannel for additional communication
Q1: Introduce yourself. Name. School. Grade level. Subject.
Q2: What is the worst example of using/creating online learning?
Q3: Part 1: What are some pitfalls to online learning? Part 2: How can we overcome them?
Q4: Part 1: Have you tried creating an online/blended unit for Ss? Part 2: What is the best online/blended lesson you created?
Q5: Based on the INaCOL standards, what strategies for online/blended learning has been the most successful to you?
Q6: According to INaCOL, the online teacher knows and understands the use of emerging technologies in a variety of mediums for teaching and learning, based on student needs. What are some resources you use?
Q7: What is the biggest obstacle that the teacher faces when trying to transition from the brick and mortar teacher to a blended model?

Last Slide: Thank you for joining us
What is a backchannel?

- Alternative communication route
- BB Collaborate; Collaborate Ultra; Google Hangouts; Telephone
- Great for new Twitter users
- Facilitates collaborative Twitter Chat moderation
- Let your students lead with your supervision through the backchannel
Don't bore them

- Gifs are an important part of the experience
  - www.GIPHY.com
  - www.TENOR.com
  - Gifs can be added directly from twitter.com without additional accounts

- Contributes
  - Emotions
  - Humor
  - Dynamic communication
Using Twitter Chat for Program Community Building

• Online Ed.D. Program – 13 students, 8 faculty
• Goals of the Twitter Chat:
  • Share research interests/areas among and between faculty students
  • Increase communication with Ed.D. students
  • Increase community among Ed.D. students and faculty
  • Identify GaETC (state conference) meeting agenda
• 1 hour on a Tuesday night
• #itecedd
Guiding Questions/Prompts

Pre: Introduce Yourself: Who are you? What do you do/where do you work? Where are you originating from tonight?

Q1: What is your experience with Twitter Chats?
Q2: Who is going to GaETC? What are you most looking forward to at GaETC?
Q3: What has been your favorite class or assignment thus far? Why?
Q4: Students: What is your current thinking on your dissertation study? Faculty: what are your research interests? Reply back to someone on the chat.
Q5: What type of research tradition do you use or are most interested in using? Why?
Q6: Students: How can faculty best support you at this stage?
Q7: Faculty: What one piece of advice would you give students at this stage?
Q8: What questions do you have about the remainder of your Ed.D. program?
Q9: What would you like to have happen at our face-to-face gathering at GaETC?
Q1: What is your experience with Twitter Chats?

#itecedd

Michael Xydias @mxydias1
A1: This is my first Twitter chat. #newbie #itecedd
7:04 PM - Oct 24, 2017
3 See Michael Xydias's other Tweets

Jenny Vowell @JennyVowell
I've only done like 3 ever in my life #itecedd A1
7:05 PM - Oct 24, 2017
1 See Jenny Vowell's other Tweets

Julie Moore @julamoore
#itecedd
7:04 PM - Oct 24, 2017
See Julie Moore's other Tweets

Christa Evans Heath @heathworld1
A1 I have taken part in Twitter Chats fairly often. . . We do one a month as part of Fulton Vanguard #itecedd
7:05 PM - Oct 24, 2017
3 See Christa Evans Heath's other Tweets

Julie Moore @julamoore
A1 I've participated in a couple of Twitter Chats, but this is the first one I have hosted. I've forgotten the hashtag once already! #itecedd
7:05 PM - Oct 24, 2017
3 See Julie Moore's other Tweets

Traci Redish @TraciRedish
A1 I've been in several twitter chats with professional organizations. I learn so much every time! @KSUITEC #itecedd
7:05 PM - Oct 24, 2017
1 See Traci Redish's other Tweets

Julia Fuller, Ed.D. @drjulafuller
#itecedd A1 I have participated in a few Twitter chats and learn something new each time! Lots of fun to Tweet Chat!
7:06 PM - Oct 24, 2017
2 See Julia Fuller, Ed.D.'s other Tweets
Feedback & Next Steps

• Students indicated they wanted more Twitter Chats to connect to each other
• Goal: Student-led Twitter Chats
Suggested Steps

- Set a day/time/host for chat
- Use Twitter to search for and identify an unused hashtag
- Develop questions
- Send out questions and instructions for the Twitter Chat to the group
- Create graphics of questions so they stand out (optional)
- Send out a message on your own Twitter followers that you are hosting a Twitter Chat
- Host the chat!
- Archive and/or link to the chat
http://janetfouts.com/how-to-participate-in-a-tweet-chat/
Tools that Will Help

• **Twitter** – pre-chat & during chat - search to find a hashtag that is unique; use to easily tweet gifs (animated images)

• **Canva.com** – pre-chat - easy graphic making program that shares to Twitter

• **Tweetdeck** – during chat - search on a single hashtag and refresh throughout the chat
Let’s Do a Twitter Chat!

• What you will need:
  • A Twitter account
  • An account on TweetDeck.com (you can login with your Twitter Account)
  • A hashtag for your Tweets: #OLC19TC (case does not matter)

• Getting Prepped:
  • Open up TweetDeck.com
    • In the search box, type in #OLC19TC and press return/enter
    • Keep the TweetDeck window open – you will monitor the Twitter Chat here
  • Open up Twitter.com in another tab or window
    • You will type your Tweets here
Let’s Do a Twitter Chat!

• Let’s Start!
  • Wait until Question 1 (Q1) is posted in your TweetDeck
  • You may have to click the magnifying glass for new tweets to load
  • Go to your Twitter tab/window
  • Click in the “What’s happening?” box
  • Answer Q1 in the following manner:
    • A1: *Your response to Q1 here. #OLC19TC*
  • Read everyone’s responses to Q1 in TweetDeck

• For the Advanced User
  • Reply to other’s responses. Don’t forget to add the hashtag #OLC19TC!
  • Add fun images (gifs) to a tweet. Don’t forget to add the hashtag #OLC19TC!
Session Evaluations & Drawing

- Download and open OLC Conferences mobile app
- Navigate to specific session to evaluate
- Select “Evaluate Session” on session details screen (located under session type and track)
- Complete session evaluation*

*Each session evaluation completed (limited to one per session) = one contest entry

**Five (5) $25 gift cards** will be awarded to five (5) individuals
Must submit evals using the OLC Conferences mobile app or website
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