



Cheat Sheet: Twitter for Teachers

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<http://teachthought.com/social-media/cheat-sheet-twitter-for-teachers/>

(Note – This is only part of the article. The remaining information is found at the link above.)

Benefits for Educators

- **Connections:** Twitter, at its heart, is a place to build connections with other educators – those next door and those across the country and world. Twitter can help you stay connected and up-to-date with news and resources shared by other school leaders.
- **Collaborations:** Start your own hashtag to collaborate with colleagues. Additionally, have students create their own hashtag for a group research project. Then group members can save their links to resources and share information through the common stream designated by their hashtag. They'll be able to easily see others results and research by simply searching by their hashtag.
- **Resources:** Another benefit of Twitter is sharing and receiving resources. Take time to share your favorite resources by providing links to them and be prepared to receive a steady stream of resources from others. For example, I posted a link on Twitter to the [Common Core Toolkit](#) that I recently created. From that link and others on various social media platforms, it's been downloaded 500 times in just 4 weeks. Do you need advice about a resource or technology tool that you're getting ready to purchase? Just ask on Twitter and you'll probably receive lots of feedback which can ultimately help you research and make decisions.
- **Professional development:** Professional development opportunities are yet another great reason to be active on Twitter. In a time when many schools have limited funds to support professional development, Twitter can serve as a great resource to learn about free webinars, cost-effective professional learning opportunities, and more. For example, I provided four free [literacy webinars](#) this fall (the final [vocabulary webinar](#) is this Wednesday) and many educators registered through a link posted on Twitter. Finally, share in the conversation by tweeting about your educational activities, favorite conference, read aloud, tech tool, and more.



A Word to the Wise

It is important to remember that, although there are privacy settings, you need to be careful what you tweet. As a general rule, anyone can read your tweets – parents, students, fellow educators, your kids, spouse, partner, and even your favorite grandma. Keep it respectful.

Twitter, like any other social media tool, can suck you in and absorb a lot of time. Keep in mind...steady stream...dip in and dip out. You can't catch all the drips nor should you try to.

Final Thoughts

Twitter, as a social media tool, is powerful for educators far beyond the obvious benefit of connecting with educators worldwide. Follow people you know, follow educators you don't know, and build a community. You'll soon get the hang of dipping your toe in and out of the stream of tweets and benefit professionally from the experience.