

Common Patterns of Participation on Twitter

It can be inherently difficult to believe that meaningful professional development can actually occur in Twitter, a social media service that limits messages to 140 characters. To build confidence in the value of joining the Twitterverse, consider monitoring the messages being posted by any educator using Twitter for a few weeks and then completing this handout.

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Which educator will you monitor:

- Name:** _____
(Feel free to choose any educator using Twitter whose work better mirrors your own. Include their name, a direct link to their Twitterstream, and a short description of their professional work.)

Looking for suggestions? Consider following the streams of one of these educators:

- Nicholas Provenzano** (<http://twitter.com/thenerdyteacher>): Full time classroom teacher with interests in the classroom integration of technology.
- Eric Townsley** (<http://twitter.com/erictownsley>): Middle school principal in Iowa with interests in educational technology, school leadership, assessment and pedagogy.
- Steven Anderson** (<http://twitter.com/web20classroom>): Instructional technologist at a middle school North Carolina, with interests in the role that social media can play in teaching and learning.
- Nancy Blair** (<http://twitter.com/blairteach>): School improvement consultant with interests in middle grades education, English/Language Arts, and literacy.

General Information	Questions to Consider
<p>Date(s) Twitterstream Monitored: _____</p> <p>Types of Activities Observed: <i>(check all that apply)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sharing Knowledge and Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring Educational News Sources <input type="checkbox"/> Tracking Important Conferences <input type="checkbox"/> Reflecting Transparently <input type="checkbox"/> Gathering Instant Feedback <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Mentoring <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <p>Frequency of Posting: <i>(How often did the educator that you're monitoring add updates to his/her Twitterstream?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> About once a week <input type="checkbox"/> About once a day <input type="checkbox"/> Several times per day 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What trends do you notice in the patterns of participation for the educator that you've been monitoring? Are certain behaviors more common than others? Are there certain behaviors that seem more valuable to you than others? Which ones? Why? 2. Did you learn any lessons that will be valuable in your primary work while monitoring the Twitterstream of this educator? What were they? How did this information help you to do your job better or make your work easier? 3. Did you learn any lessons about networking in social media spaces while monitoring the Twitterstream of this educator? What were they? 4. What questions about common patterns of communication in Twitter do you still have? What excites you about building your own network in Twitter? 5. How do you intend to build on this learning experience? Will you study the Twitterstreams of additional educators? Are you ready to start your own Twitter account?