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Nine ideas for...

using Twitter to teach

Twitter can be a fast and effective way to engage students, connect with colleagues and keep parents informed about class happenings.

- 1 CREATE AN ACCOUNT.**
Go to Twitter.com and create a login and password. Your login name will become your identity on Twitter, so pick wisely.
- 2 USE HASHTAGS TO FIND CONTENT.**
Use the hashtag (#) symbol to search for topics. You can save a search topic to go back again.
- 3 FOLLOW YOUR COLLEAGUES.**
Find someone's posts interesting? "Follow" them to receive their tweets in your timeline. "UEN News" and "UEN PD" are two feeds that post education-related tweets.
- 4 DON'T JUST FOLLOW, SHARE.**
Tweet your ideas and links regularly to contribute to the conversation, and consider following the people who follow you.
- 5 SCHEDULE FUTURE POSTS.**
Keep your Twitter timeline up-to-date with a service like Hootsuite or Social Oomph that allows you to pre-load and schedule tweets in advance.
- 6 FOLLOW HISTORICAL EVENTS AND FIGURES.**
Learn about different historical events from Twitter recreations at TwHistory.com and follow former presidents like John Quincy Adams.
- 7 BROADCAST NOTES FROM CONFERENCES AND EVENTS.**
Taking notes on Twitter can be a great way to share an experience with folks back at school.
- 8 USE RSS FEEDS TO SEND TWEETS VIA TEXT.**
Even if students don't have a Twitter account, they can still follow your tweets by subscribing to an RSS feed that they can view using a free service like Google Reader.
- 9 CREATE A CLASSROOM BACKCHANNEL.**
Supplement in-class instruction by having students discuss topics via Twitter, using hashtags to create a findable conversation.

UEN offers a wide range of ed-tech classes for educators, online and in-person, plus Faculty Lounge webinars. Learn more at www.uen.org/development/.