



twitter



Getting Started with TWITTER

STEP 1: Set up a TWITTER Account

Create a Twitter account, if you don't have one, at <http://twitter.com/>. Add a picture and your full name to your profile. If you prefer to remain somewhat anonymous, you could add a picture of something else that stands in for you and just your first name or an alias. Twitter can be an effective professional networking tool, but only if people can find you easily, so if you plan to network via Twitter, use your full name as either your user name or in your profile. Be sure to confirm your Twitter account in your e-mail.

STEP 2: Find out what TWITTER is and how you can use it

Visit this site for info. about what Twitter is and how you can use it: <http://www.squidoo.com/TwitterTutorial>. This site talks more specifically about academic uses for Twitter: <http://wp.stockton.edu/postcolonialstudies/twitter-and-academia/>.

STEP 3: Create a TWITTER Bio

Now that you have a sense of how you might want to use Twitter, create a Bio for yourself on your Twitter Profile. Your Bio must be less than 160 characters, so choose your words carefully. Think of this as your first exercise in the sort of writerly concision that Twitter demands. Your Twitter Bio functions almost like a mini-resume. When someone is deciding whether to follow you, this bio (along with your name) is what they will see. Once you use Twitter, your account is likely to come up in search results when someone Googles your name, so think of this Bio as a personal branding statement.

STEP 4: Start following

Using Twitter is a good way to create a scholarly or professional network. The best way to get started is to search for people you know and to follow people with interests similar to your own. Twitter offers suggestions about who you should follow on your home page and via the #discover page. You can also get some ideas here: <http://whotofollow.net>.

STEP 5: Get to know the lingo

You don't need any special language to use Twitter. The only rule on Twitter is that a single tweet can be no more than 140 characters. Because of this requirement, advanced users have developed their own short hand. Here is some of the more common lingo:

called a hashtag, marks keywords or topics in a Tweet, which become searchable.

@ is used to call out usernames in Tweets. When a username is preceded by the @ sign, it becomes a link to a Twitter profile. This is called a **mention**.

Follow is to subscribe to someone's Tweets or updates on Twitter.

Retweet is the act of forwarding another user's Tweet to all of your followers.

Trending Topic is one of the most popular subjects on Twitter at the moment.

When you find yourself wanting to know more, Twitter has a handy glossary: <https://support.twitter.com/articles/166337-the-twitter-glossary>.

STEP 6: Delve Deeper

From *WIRED*: http://www.wired.com/techbiz/media/magazine/15-07/st_thompson.

Beginner's guide: <http://michaelhyatt.com/the-beginners-guide-to-twitter.html>.

100 tips for using Twitter: <http://www.bestcollegesonline.com/blog/2009/07/21/100-serious-twitter-tips-for-academics/>.

Article about grammar usage on Twitter and how Twitter might be used in a classroom: http://www.hybridpedagogy.com/Journal/files/Twitter_and_the_student2point0.html.