

INTEGRATING LOW-STAKES WRITING IN LARGE COLLEGE CLASSROOMS SUPPLEMENT 2: TWITTER ASSIGNMENTS

Technical Directions

First you need to get a TweetChat account if you don't already have one. The directions for that are as follows:

1. Sign in to your Twitter account. (If you don't have a Twitter account, see the page ["Signing up with Twitter"](#) for step-by-step directions.)
2. Open a new tab.
3. Go to [TweetChat](#) (tweetchat.com).
4. Click "Sign in" button in top right corner.
5. Allow Tweet Chat to access your Twitter account (it will then send you back to TweetChat).
6. Join our chat room (from TweetChat) by entering our Tweetchat account name _____ into the hashtag search at the top of the TweetChat page (where it says "Enter hashtag to follow").

Tweet Your Thesis

1. Freewrite – Before you tweet your thesis, you should freewrite about your topic. Explore the argument you are considering making, your reasons for choosing this topic, what others might say about the topic, and possible counterarguments.

2. Develop Your Working Thesis – Once you have finished freewriting, develop a working thesis for your essay (a working thesis is a thesis in progress, as your thesis will often change while you draft your essay.) Some things to consider when drafting a working thesis:

- It should be debatable – make sure someone could make an argument against it.
- It should be specific – try to avoid broad generalizations about your topic.
- It should be complex – avoid oversimplifying the argument.

3. Tweet your Thesis – Once you have a working thesis, post it on Twitter. Be sure to include the hashtag for our class chatroom.

4. Read and Reply – Respond to at least two tweets with comments or questions about the working thesis. You can compliment a working thesis, critique a specific aspect of it, or offer further thoughts on the argument itself. Whichever you choose, be sure to offer brief but specific feedback. Don't just say "great thesis!" or "Good work!" Say why it is or isn't working. *And be sure to tag the student in your tweet!*

Examples:

@janestudent – Your working thesis is great because it offers specific reasons why you are taking this position.
#engl125

@johnstudent – I think this might need more attention to the counterargument. Did you consider Smith's point of view? #engl125

Tweet a Summary

1. Freewrite – After you have finished reading, freewrite about the material until you come up with a concise summary of some aspect of what you read that will fit into a Twitter post (a Twitter post allows for 140 characters, including the hashtag and its name).

2. Post – Post your summary to Twitter, making sure to include the hashtag for our class.

3. Read and Reply – Read over other students' posts to see what they chose to emphasize. Respond to at least two student posts with compliments, questions, or concerns about their summary. Include brief but specific reasons for your comments and avoid general responses, such as "great summary!" Discuss what made the summary work or ask a clear question about it. Be sure to tag the student and use our class's hashtag in the post.

Example:

@janestudent – I notice you don't mention reverse osmosis. I wonder if you feel this process is less important in this situation? #chem243

Tweet a Question

1. Choose Your Question – After class or after reading, write down the questions that came up for you. Choose a question that you wish to pose to the class.

2. Post – Post your question to Twitter, making sure to include the hashtag for our class.

3. Read and Reply – Read over other students' posts and try to answer at least one. If you can't answer any of the questions, comment on a question. Be sure to tag the student in your post.

Example:

@janestudent – I have questions about that too because if positive psychology is so popular does that negate other forms? #psych230