

Twitter assignment guidelines, Spring 2013

Although writers bring many different experiences to their writing, most successful academic writers enrich their research by reading extensively. On the Internet, social media networks such as Twitter and Facebook have created collaborative spaces for readers to share and comment upon topics that are relevant to your academic interests. This semester-long assignment will help you locate and participate in professional networks; practice your reading, summarizing, and paraphrasing skills; create an archive of sources relevant to your projects for this class and other classes; and communicate meaningful ideas to your class, university, and web communities. Here's how to get started:

- Create a Twitter account. If you do not want to share your personal Twitter account with the class, create a new account just for this class and delete it after the semester is over.
- Fill out your profile and set your account to public. You can abbreviate your last name (example: Amy H) if you wish.
- Find and follow people and organizations relevant to your academic and personal interests.
- In tweets about your reading materials and class discussions, include the class hashtag. (We will create the hashtag together in class.)

Over the course of the semester, you are required to read one non-fiction book in English and ten shorter sources in English (a newspaper, magazine, web, or academic article) on any subject. You may use sources that you read in another class for this assignment. Once you have read a chapter of the book or an article, follow these guidelines:

- Write and post at least one tweet that summarizes the chapter or article and include a link to the source. You only have 140 characters to provide a summary, a link, and the class hashtag, so be concise!
- Write at least one more tweet that answers one of the following questions:
 - What do you think about the source's ideas, arguments, or findings?
 - How does this source relate to any other sources you've read before?

You may also use Twitter to ask questions about course material, respond to other students' ideas and sources, or make suggestions for class discussion. If you have any questions about this assignment, you may send me an email, mention me in a Tweet, or send me a direct message.