

## How to Get Started on Twitter

### What is a handle?



First, you will need a professional Twitter handle. If you already have a personal Twitter account it is necessary for you to open a professional account. For more information about Twitter lingo, check out the [Twitter Glossary](#). My Twitter handle is @mbfxc.

### Now what? You can't be an egg!



No one will follow you if you're just an egg. You need to add a profile picture. This picture should be a professional picture or you can add an avatar or an image of your classroom or team mascot.

### Why would anyone want to follow you?



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<http://mbfxc.wordpress.com>

You need to add a description to your profile, so people have a reason to want to follow you. This description is 140 characters, so be precise. Look at other profiles to get an idea about how to write your profile. Here's some [advice](#) on how to write a profile that will get people to follow you.

### Now what?

You are up and running on Twitter, but now what? How do you build your PLN? It takes some time. For a long time, I just read and did not tweet. Once I understood the lingo, I started to share resources and I retweeted (RT) a lot. After awhile, I knew that I needed to share more and I started to blog at [The Dyslexic Professor](#). I also started to participate in [#edchats](#). In no time at all I had developed my [PLN](#).

Developing your PLN (Personal Learning Network) will take some time. Here's some advice to get you started: [The 5Cs to Developing Your Personal Learning Network](#). Another great place to find people to follow, as well as followers is to participate in chats.



Twitter Power: *The Twitter Hashtag*

**Hashtags** – You should follow and use #sschat and #engchat and #edchat. Social Studeis teachers must join the [#sschat Ning](#); English teachers should join [#engchat](#) and English language teachers should join [#ELTchat](#).

### Suggestions for Twitter platforms to use to participate in a #chat:



Still not convinced? Afraid it will take up too much time? Nervous that you won't have the technical support from your district?

Read this and you'll start your professional Twitter teaching account today!

[If You Were On Twitter](#)

### My Twitter Journey in Less Than a Year...

[A Little Like Casablanca](#)  
[What Took Me So Long?](#)  
[I Applaud You](#)

You deserve to be a part of this incredible learning community of teacher educators around the world!

Here's a [Twitter Tutorial](#) when you get home tonight or back to your classroom tomorrow and want a refresher course!

### The Next Step



Get involved with [#Edcamp](#) and expand your PD beyond your school and district!