



Twitter Me This: Join a Global Learning Community & Feel Good About It

Description:

It's a blog, it's an IM... no it's Twitter - more efficient than email or RSS! Learn to connect with others, discover resources, and share what you're doing using "social microblogging."

Abstract:

The first part of the session will be an introduction to social microblogging in general, and to Twitter.com specifically. Twitter can be described in a number of ways, each of which captures part of the experience. Twitter is...

- An opportunity to answer the question "what are you doing?" (in 140 characters or less) and to share the answer with your friends and colleagues.
- Like a blog with mini posts. There are no comments on individual posts (or "tweets"), but others can respond by posting their own tweets back @ you.
- More communal than instant messaging or email. It's open and inclusive instead of closed and exclusive. It's also less intrusive because no response is expected.
- Like reading RSS feeds, except that the posts are shorter and fewer.
- A great way to keep in touch with a large group of people at a live event... like this CUE conference!

But none of these things really captures the essence of twitter - it allows you to connect with a community from your computer (or phone) 24 hours a day. It can give you a better sense of the daily rhythm of other's lives - even across time zones, and it's been said that "Twitter makes you feel good about being human."

The second part of the session will be an overview of ways Twitter can be used in education. Many educators use Twitter to participate in a global learning community, and some have begun bringing their students on board, too. It's a great tool for on-demand, just-in-time, and open-source collaboration... and students can develop a greater sense of global awareness in the process. The session will include several innovative ideas for using Twitter as part of a classroom lesson or experience. It will conclude with a brief discussion of applications that extend the functionality of Twitter, such as Firefox extensions for easy access to your network and Twittercamp, a visual display that can be projected for students in a school.

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