



Twitter in Chief

Time Frame: 1 day	Author: Jennifer Burdette
Proven Practices (indicate which practices used) <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Instruction on government institutions✓ Use of current & controversial issues	
IL Social Studies Standards <p><u>SS.IS.4.9-12:</u> Gather and evaluate information from multiple sources while considering the origin, credibility, point of view, authority, structure, context, and corroborative value of the sources</p> <p><u>SS.CV.1.9-12:</u> Distinguish the rights, roles, powers, and responsibilities of individuals and institutions in the political system.</p> <p><u>SS.CV.5.9-12:</u> Analyze the impact of personal interest and diverse perspectives on the application of civic dispositions, democratic principles, constitutional rights, and human rights</p>	CCSS/ELA History/Social Studies Standards <p>Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.</p>
Essential Question: Why does social media matter in a democratic society?	
Supporting Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How does social media impact the five freedoms of the 1st amendment?• Are the effects of social media on our first amendment rights positive or negative?• How and why do different groups use social media?• How does social media shape public opinion?• Are there restrictions when using social media in a democratic society?	
Resources Required w/Citations: <p>Parlapiano, Alicia, and Larry Buchanan. "Cataloguing Every Tweet by the President In His First 100 Days." <i>The New York Times</i>, The New York Times, 28 Apr. 2017, www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/04/28/us/politics/donald-trump-twitter-100-days-of-tweets.html? r=0.</p> <p>Baker, Peter, and Eileen Sullivan. "Trump Shares Inflammatory Anti-Muslim Videos, and Britain's Leader Condemns Them." <i>The New York Times</i>, The New York Times, 29 Nov. 2017, www.nytimes.com/2017/11/29/us/politics/trump-anti-muslim-videos-jayda-fransen.html.</p> <p>Tweets from @realDonaldTrump</p>	
Recommended Procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using some sample tweets from President Trump that have the twitter handle removed, have	



students look at the statements and discuss who they think might be writing, who is the audience, what is their purpose, are the tweets appropriate.

- Discuss students' initial observations.
- Then add in the idea that these tweets came from a government official. Have them reconsider their initial opinions and see if this changes any of their thoughts. Discuss what students' expectations are in terms of how a government official uses twitter. What would be examples of good usage? Poor usage?
- Read the article on sharing the anti-Muslim videos and discuss as a class. Relate to the idea previously discussion about how officials should use social media.
- Then look at the categorization of President Trump's tweets from his first 100 days in office. What positive do they note? Negatives?
- You could also have students go through and look at a selection of his recent tweets and categorize them as to whether they think there are presidential, unpresidential or in between. Have students defend their choices. (sample list included)
- Have students complete the assignment over the idea of presidential usage of Twitter.

Possible Service Learning Informed Action:

- Conduct an opinion poll on the president's use of twitter and how it reflects on the office. Share their findings.
- Create posters on how to properly use social media and post them around the school.

Differentiation:

Students could use a think, pair, share option when categorizing tweets.

Students could first look at the idea of how they use social media and what makes a post appropriate or inappropriate before considering the idea of how government officials use social media.

Possible Assessments:

Handout Tweet Questions

Other Considerations:

Students could also compare and contrast President Obama's twitter usage with President Trump's. How did the two use social media? How has social media usage evolved since President Obama's presidency? How has this changed the way the media reports on events and our use of evidence in journalism?



Tweet Questions

What do you notice about the way President Trump has used Twitter?

What is your reaction to his use of this social media platform?

What is your reaction to him sharing these videos on Twitter?

Do you think he is trying to draw attention to the need for national security like the White House spokeswoman claims, or like the British politicians who condemn his actions, do you think he is perpetuating racist narratives?

How do you think the president should use social media?

What effects do you think his tweets may have?

What characteristics would make someone a cyberbully?

Do you think he is a cyberbully or expressing his 1st Amendment right? What line exists between the two?



Sample Tweets



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 16h

.@Theresa_May, don't focus on me, focus on the destructive Radical Islamic Terrorism that is taking place within the United Kingdom. We are doing just fine!

35K 31K 89K



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 17h

A vote to CUT TAXES is a vote to PUT AMERICA FIRST. It is time to take care of OUR WORKERS, to protect OUR COMMUNITIES, and to REBUILD OUR GREAT COUNTRY! 45.wh.gov/XocfMQ



“

A vote to CUT TAXES is a vote to PUT AMERICA FIRST. It is time to take care of OUR WORKERS, to protect OUR COMMUNITIES, and to REBUILD OUR GREAT COUNTRY.


—
PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

10K 9.6K 39K



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · Nov 29
Economy growing! Excluding hurricane effects, CEA estimates that real GDP growth would have been 3.9% in Q3.

Stock market at a new high, unemployment at a low. We are winning and TAX CUTS will shift our economy into high gear!



US economy expanded at brisk 3.3 pct. pace in third quarter

12K 11K 45K

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · Nov 29
Just spoke to President XI JINPING of China concerning the provocative actions of North Korea. Additional major sanctions will be imposed on North Korea today. This situation will be handled!

15K 20K 93K



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Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · Nov 29
So now that Matt Lauer is gone when will the Fake News practitioners at NBC be terminating the contract of Phil Griffin? And will they terminate low ratings Joe Scarborough based on the "unsolved mystery" that took place in Florida years ago? Investigate!

36K 22K 81K

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · Nov 29
Wow, Matt Lauer was just fired from NBC for "inappropriate sexual behavior in the workplace." But when will the top executives at NBC & Comcast be fired for putting out so much Fake News. Check out Andy Lack's past!

59K 25K 95K

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · Nov 29
Looks like another great day for the Stock Market. Consumer Confidence is at Record High. I guess somebody likes me (my policies)!

22K 15K 80K

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · Nov 29
Great, and we should boycott Fake News CNN. Dealing with them is a total waste of time!

Sarah Sanders @PressSec
Christmas comes early! Finally, good news from @CNN.
twitter.com/politico/statu...

17K 16K 64K

Donald J. Trump Retweeted

Jayda Fransen @JaydaBF · Nov 28
VIDEO: Islamist mob pushes teenage boy off roof and beats him to death!

This media may contain sensitive material. Your media settings are configured to warn you when media may be sensitive. [View](#)

15K 16K 25K

Donald J. Trump Retweeted

Jayda Fransen @JaydaBF · Nov 29
VIDEO: Muslim Destroys a Statue of Virgin Mary!

This media may contain sensitive material. Your media settings are configured to warn you when media may be sensitive. [View](#)

11K 17K 25K

Donald J. Trump Retweeted

Jayda Fransen @JaydaBF · Nov 28
VIDEO: Muslim migrant beats up Dutch boy on crutches!

This media may contain sensitive material. Your media settings are configured to warn you when media may be sensitive. [View](#)

14K 18K 25K