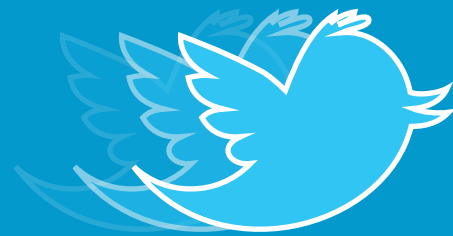# TIPS & TRICKS
FIVE TIPS FOR USING TWITTER

1. CREATE A USERNAME THAT WILL MAKE IT EASY FOR OTHERS TO FIND YOU
- A name such as plpnetwork is going to be more easily recognized than ed123plp0xz
- You can change usernames (w/o loss of data) but it's best to not make a habit of switching names so your followers aren't confused
- If you choose a short username, it will make it easier for others to retweet your posts

2. CHECK TWITTER DAILY TO REVIEW POSTS AND ADD NEW INFORMATION
- Many educators find it easier to make a habit of going online at the same time so it becomes part of their daily routine.
- Keep abreast of who and what's trending in education. Twitter provides a wealth of information for educators.

3. ADD A PHOTO AND INFORMATION TO YOUR PROFILE
- People are more likely to follow you if you have a photo, information about who you are and a few tweets.

4. BECOME A PRODUCER
- It's okay to lurk (at first), but to take full advantage you'll need to move beyond being a consumer of information
- Recommend educational resources
- Challenge, expand and share your professional philosophies and pedagogies

5. USE TWITTER TO ENGAGE STUDENTS AND PARENTS
- Keep students and parents informed through Twitter
- Develop classroom projects/lessons that involve the use of Twitter

NOT SURE HOW TO GET START USING TWITTER AS A PROFESSIONAL OR IN YOUR CLASSROOM? Join Powerful Learning Practice for a *two-week Twitter 101 eCourse* where you will:

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- learn about tweets and what information should be shared
- understand the importance of branding and creating the right twitter name
- learn about hashtags, how to use hashtags and ones to follow
- design a management plan for when and how often to tweet
- participate in a live twitter chat and evaluate which software is best to use during twitter chats
- understand the value for using Twitter as an educational professional
- learn how-to enhance curriculum with activities and lessons that include tweeting with students
- create a lesson/project that includes the use of Twitter