

TWITTER CHEAT SHEET

Timelines: There are two -- one for the people you follow, and one of your own Tweets.

Profile for your Twitter page: Don't forget to fill out your bio. Spend some time coming up with a description that is catchy and interesting. Many potential followers will determine if they're going to follow you, based on this alone. If you have a website, include your link. Include a photograph of yourself too -- actual faces are much more appealing than cartoons, graphics, or abstract images.

Following People: One of the first things you'll do is start to follow people. When you follow others, their Tweets appear in your main Timeline. You can use the "Who to Follow" link for suggestions, search for specific people/names/interests, and use outside directories such as wefollow.com. To follow, just click on the green "Follow" button. You can unfollow by clicking on it again.

Lists: In addition to following someone, or instead of following, you can add people to lists that you create. To add people, click on the Lists drop-down menu; you can create new lists, and add people to them. You can also follow other peoples' lists.

Direct Messages: You can send private messages to people you are following, who also follow you. Click the "Message" button or type D before their Twitter name, e.g., D @username.

Favorites: You can save your fave Tweets by clicking the star next to the word favorite at the bottom of each Tweet.

Retweet: There are a few ways to pass along someone else's Tweet to your followers. Click on the Retweet button at the bottom of a Tweet. (This will create a copy.) A better way of doing this is to type RT @username, and the text you'd like to retweet. (This makes it easy for people to keep track of it in the mentions column.) You can also copy the text you want to retweet, followed by (via @username). Retweeting is one of the ways you can be generous, interesting and pay it forward.

@Mentions: Put the @ symbol before a person's username (@username), and that links to the person's Twitter page. When you put this at the start of a Tweet, this is called a reply. (You can also do this automatically by clicking the "reply" button.) Replies are public, and become part of your Timeline, and can be seen by your followers and the recipient's. If you want everyone to see it, but a period before the user (.@username). Don't overdo Replies and remember they will appear as partial conversations in your Timeline, which are hard to read out of context.

Searches & Hashtags: You can search for keywords using the search box, and you can also search for hashtags. These keywords are indicated with the # symbol. These searches can be saved for viewing later (under the "Searches" pulldown). The hashtag is also used by Twitteratti attending conferences, using Twitter to have a Twitter conversation, and for special audiences. We will use #pxguild for this class.

What to Tweet, and how to build your fellowship? Check the class website for more information: thepixelguild.ca