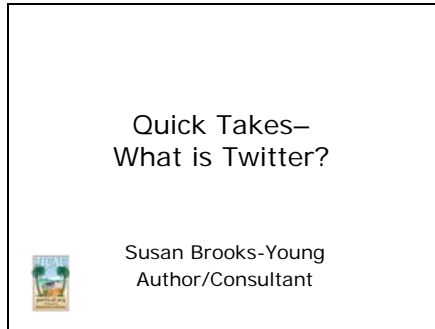
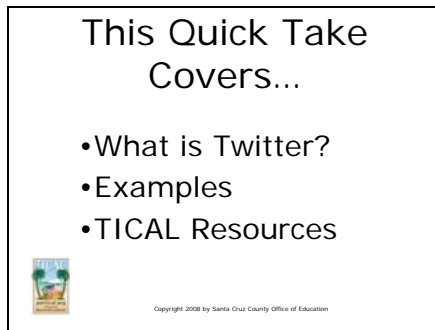


Slide 1



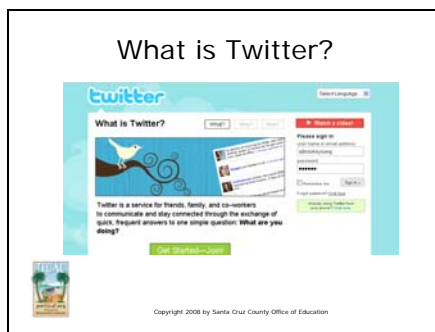
Hello! My name is Susan Brooks-Young. I spent 23 years working as a teacher and administrator in public and private education. Now I work with educators both nationally and internationally on various aspects of technology use in schools. This is one of a series of Quick Take presentations that provides a brief overview of one emerging technology along with examples of how educators are using this tool and further information available in the TICAL Resources Database.

Slide 2



Quick, easy-to-use methods for communicating with colleagues, friends, and family are a signature of Web 2.0 tools. This Quick Take focuses on a tool that enables users to stay in touch with professional and personal networks using a computer or mobile device such as a cell phone. We will answer the question, "What is Twitter," view examples of personal and professional use, and see a listing of resources found in the TICAL Resource Database.

Slide 3




Twitter is a free social media service often referred to as a 'micro-blog.' Like a traditional blog, users post messages that readers can comment on. Unlike a blog, these posts or 'Tweets' consist of just 140 or fewer characters- no more than a sentence or two. You might wonder why Twitter is so popular. It seems that real time information in brief posts is the attraction, along with the ability to create a single feed to follow comments written by friends and colleagues. It's also possible to zero in on Tweets about specific topics

of interest such as a favorite sport or K-12 education. Tweets often include links to photos and web sites or pose questions for members of the Twittersverse to answer.

Slide 4

Pros	Cons
Accounts are free and may be protected	Must have Internet access or ability to text
Accessible via computer and mobile devices	Cell phones may be prohibited in school
Multiple ways to respond to Tweets	Cell phone text messaging may be costly

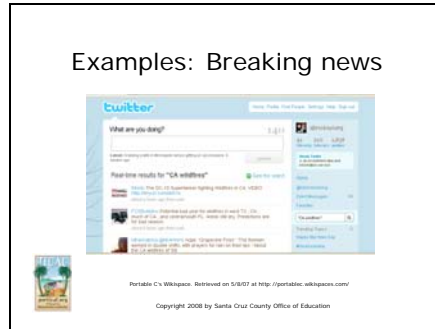


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Twitter accounts are free and allow users to protect their Tweets so that only authorized viewers can read them. Tweets may be composed and posted on the Twitter website, via instant messaging, or using text messages. Responses to Tweets are handled in several ways. A public reply begins with @username and is visible to all. A direct message begins with dusername and can be read just by the individual recipient. By adding keywords and a #, all replies with this tag can be aggregated and read.

Twitter does have some drawbacks. Posting or replying to Tweets requires an Internet connection or the ability to send a text message. Although most students today have cell phones and could easily Tweet using one, many schools prohibit use of cell phones on campus. Finally, users who rely on text messaging to post, read, and reply to Tweets can rack up significant charges when their cell phone plans don't include unlimited texting. Let's take a look at some of the ways Twitter is used.

Slide 5



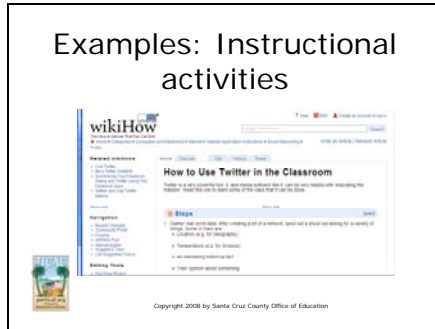
Where can people turn for breaking news about disasters and other noteworthy events? That's right--Twitter users are regularly scooping traditional news sources, posting up-to-the-second information along with photos and links to websites. For example, during the 2008 California wildfires, officials used Twitter to post updates including maps to shelters and pin-pointing hotspots. Throughout the Mumbai massacre, hostages Tweeted their locations and information about the terrorists. And, the first images of the successful landing on the Hudson River of US Airways flight 1549 appeared on Twitter. There are several possibilities here for educators including disaster preparedness and following current events.

Slide 6



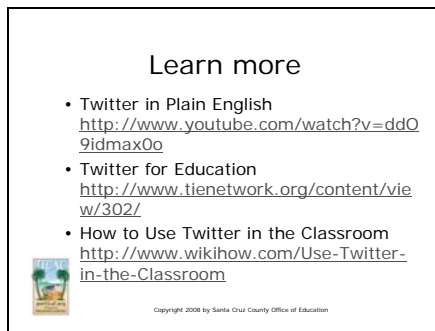
There are many times when it would be immensely helpful to get immediate feedback from participants of a meeting, workshop, or other group activity if it could be done without disrupting the flow. Twitter makes this possible using @username replies or by tagging posts. Participants are able to ask questions and make comments that can be read in real time. In addition, there are free tools like PollDaddy Twitter Polls that you can use to pose multiple choice questions to solicit feedback.

Slide 7



Instructional activities range from posting homework to Tweeting in the voice of an historical figure to writing Twitter novels. Educators who are experimenting with various instructional uses of Twitter are sharing their ideas online. For example, the wiki-based how-to manual shown here consists of a lengthy list of suggested Twitter activities for a variety of subjects. An easy way to find additional lesson resources is to do an online search using keywords such as "Twitter in classrooms."

Slide 8



This slide and the next show items found in the TICAL Resources Database that will give you more information about Twitter. Twitter in Plain English is a CommonCraft video that provides an overview of this tool and Twitter for Education is a pdf file provided by the Georgia Public Broadcasting Technology in Education (or TIE) network. How to Use Twitter in the Classroom is a "How-to" Manual hosted on the wikiHow site.

Slide 9



This slide provides links to additional resources. PollDaddy Twitter Polls is one tool you can use to create and deploy quick surveys. Twitter Fan Wiki does not target educators, but is a good resource for general information about Twitter. The last link takes you directly to the Twitter site. All of these resources can be found in the TICAL Resource database.

Slide 10



Twitter offers exciting opportunities for educators and students to work collaboratively and share information. I hope this Quick Take inspires you to learn more about Web 2.0 tools.