

## Using Twitter to Enhance Learning in Engineering: Survey Results

Towards the end of the semester, I surveyed my engineering class to find out their perceptions of the assignment and what they learned. I had them complete the survey through Survey Monkey outside class, so only 15 out of 20 students responded to the survey. I had them complete it anonymously, but probably should have had them turn in a screen shot of the completion screen for credit to get the other 5 to respond.

Below are the questions I asked and the results:

### Question 1: Rate the following statements based on your experience with the ECE103 Twitter Assignment.

(Response options for each statement below were Agree weighted at 1, Disagree weighted at 0, or Not Applicable.)

Statement	Agree	Disagree	N/A
I had used Twitter before this class assignment.	5	10	
I created a Twitter account/handle just for this class.	12	3	
I went into the Twitter assignment with an open mind.	12	3	
I was not in favor of the Twitter assignment when it was first assigned.	10	5	
I completed at least one of the Twitter weekly summary assignments.	14	1	
I spent at least 1 hour per week reviewing Twitter postings.	7	7	1

## **Question 2: What did you learn from completing the weekly Twitter assignment & summaries?**

All the different fields that chemical engineers are able to get into.

I found out some interesting information about classes offered and job openings.

Absolutely nothing, due to my own unwillingness to participate. I simply can not associate with twitter, and it is unfortunate that my grade slightly suffered because I was basically forced to.

I learned that there is a lot of things posted on twitter that we can learn from.

I learned interesting things about some of the different engineering fields. I mostly kept up with NASA since I like the mysteries of space.

i came into the assignment open minded and saw not just one side of engineering but different areas of it and different sorts of achievements made around the world.

nothing

I got more of an idea of what engineers do from different disciplines

A lot of interesting facts that are going on in the engineering world at the present time.

Just depending on who you follow, you could come across some really interesting and cool findings.

I did learn things in the field that I was interested in learning about and felt up to date with some of the advancements in the engineering world.

nothing new that I would have found somewhere else

I am not sure how much I learned because I already get up every day and search out the stories on my own without twitter. But I did learn about some breaking stories.

I learned that technology is advancing more rapidly than ever, and I had no idea what was going on in the world of industrial revolution.

Pure joy... this assignment forced me to stay abreast of both NASA and JPL. I was reminded of the Earth programs... these agencies using cutting edge technology to keep track of the planet's health. My sincere thanks for forcing my hand :)

**Question 3: Rate the following statements based on your experience with the weekly ECE103 Twitter assignment.**

(Response options for each statement below were on a 5-point scale ranging from Strongly Agree with weight 5 to Strongly Disagree with weight 1; Average scores for each statement reported below)

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Weighted Average Score</b>
I learned something about engineering on Twitter.	4.07
I learned something about engineering on Twitter that I would not have learned elsewhere.	3.47
I learned something about engineering professional societies on Twitter.	3.67
I learned something about engineering professional societies on Twitter that I would not have learned elsewhere.	3.53
Following engineering related organizations on Twitter was a worthwhile experience.	3.80
Completing the weekly summaries about what I learned on Twitter was a worthwhile experience.	3.60
I would recommend keeping the Twitter assignment as an activity in ECE103.	3.71

#### **Question 4: What was most valuable about the ECE103 Twitter assignment?**

It would help in how I would tackle down assignments every week.

It was cool to actually find intriguing articles related to current issues and politics.

To someone like me, there is little value to be had, if any.

Learning from the various sources and networking.

What was most valuable to me was that I can be one of those students doing research and contributing to the fields of science.

Most valuable was that somehow I was able to get motivation from it. I saw that it takes time but it can be done.

nothing

Learning about engineering

Learning about new things in the engineering world.

That the news and/or instructors aren't your only reliable source for finding cool stories or learning about new things.

As time went on I found I like reading a few sites more than others and those sites had good information about what was going on in the science and engineering community

nothing

I am not sure...I will be honest it was always left until the last moment and I would rather talk about any subject I wanted to learn from that related to engineering rather than a prescreened list provided by instructor.

It was a quick and easy assignment.

Again, although I followed five accounts, the NASA and NASAJPL accounts were by far the most interesting and informative. Michelle... I would make these mandatory if your goal is to create and inspire an interest in all things STEM.

## Question 5: What would you suggest to improve the ECE103 Twitter assignment?

nothing

Not have it be due every week. It was kinda fun but a little bit too much to do every week.

Eliminate it.

More reminders about the summaries.

One improvement would be if the instructor can teach the students the basics on how to use twitter, since it took me some time to know what to do and even still I do not know how to use it accordingly.

Improving it would suggest making it an assignment for students to look for their own societies or people to follow so they can learn twitter and explore the engineering life in twitter.

don't do it

Change the due dates to sundays

Have more variety of engineering based people/companies to follow.

Mostly my fault, but reminding students to do them better.

That people make a handle or profile that is just for their engineering information.

take it off the assignments

I think it would be more powerful if the students interacted with each other to discuss what we learned to this way we could cumulatively learn from each other. If we would have had a 10 minute discussion every week just briefly covered the most interesting findings on twitter. I also think if this was an inclass assignment people would be more engaged in doing it.

Maybe make it worth more points so that students are more motivated to actually do them.

On some occasions I spent over an hour per week... this often occurred when I got absorbed in a NASA or JPL posting and did additional research. For the most part, the assignments (which I thought I do thoroughly) usually took me about 30 minutes. I think the "one hour per week" description scared many... I would tone that down.

**Question 6: What other feedback do you have regarding the ECE103 Twitter assignment?**

nothing

Nothing I can think of.

People will not participate, as it is not worth while. Social media will never be professional, or scholastic.

N/A

It was truly an eye opener. I wish I was able to stick to it better and remember to do it if it weren't for my full schedule.

It seems to be OK and should continue for future ECE 103 classes.

this is a really worthless assignment, i completely disagree with this assignment, i do not feel like i learned anything

Keep it refine it...i think what you doing is helpful...you are very enthusiastic and that goes a long way. If my instructor really didn't care about twitter and made it a weekly assignment I definitely wouldn't do it.

None

Again, I am active with social media... this assignment was a welcome addition to the course - current, topical, entertaining, and educational.