



#etmooc 2013: Tutorials and Advice for Participants

How to use this Guide

The links in the 'Table of Contents' identify the various sections of the guide. Click on the section of the Table of Contents that interests you to 'jump' directly there.

This guide is not comprehensive, nor is it optimized for accessibility. Here's where you can help! Continue to develop the guide by working in this document and suggesting content and we'll periodically edit the [guide](#) on the #etmooc site. **IMPORTANT:** Please [add a comment](#) to the appropriate section/item and provide your suggested change there. Here's an example.

Also: If anyone would like to begin recreating this document in another language, please do so! [Create a new document](#) and share the link with us by adding a comment to this page. We'll add your information below.

Title of Document	Language	Hyperlink to Google Doc	Additional Comments
#etmooc 2013 Dynamic Guide for Participants	English	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NAR9hR3E5PHPq0g1qjiCmSXR2OI5WTOH-JOX_h_zoTA/edit	

Welcome to #etmooc 2013!

Table of Contents

1. The Experience

General Advice

2. Social Media Accounts

Twitter

Setting Up Twitter

Twitter Live Chats

Finding and Connecting with Others on Twitter

General Twitter Advice

Google+ Communities

Setting Up Google+ and Google+ Communities

The ‘Social’ Aspects of Social Media

3. Blogging

WordPress

Blogger

Edublogs

Reading and Commenting on Others’ Blog Posts

General Blogging Advice

4. Social Bookmarking

Diigo

Delicious

The Experience

As we mentioned [here](#), think of #etmooc as an experience situated somewhere between a course and a community. While there will be scheduled webinars and information shared each week, we know that there is a lot more that we will collectively need to do if we want to create a truly collaborative and passionate community.

We're aiming to carry on those important conversations in many different spaces – through the use of social networks, collaborative tools, shared hashtags, and in personalized spaces. What #etmooc eventually becomes, and what it will mean to you, will depend upon the ways in which you participate and the participation and activities of all of its members. You may even establish and grow your personal and professional learning network (PLN).

What is a PLN? Here's a helpful [definition](#):

The PLN consists of relationships between individuals where the goal is enhancement of mutual learning. The currency of the PLN is learning in the form of feedback, insights, documentation, new contacts, or new business opportunities. It is based on reciprocity and a level of trust that each party is actively seeking value-added information for the other.

Other General Advice

- Push yourself to try new things. Take risks and make mistakes—this is where deeper can occur!
- There's really no 'wrong way' to approach a connectivist MOOC. We'll provide you with suggestions on how to organize yourself and select tools to help you to throughout #etmooc, but find what works for you (and keeps you organized). If you do feel that you require additional structure on how to approach #etmooc in the beginning, try [this wiki](#).
- Attend the Blackboard Collaborate [live sessions](#) when possible—we will be repeating many sessions, too, so hopefully one of them will be compatible with your schedule. Recordings of these sessions will be made available if you miss them.
- Ask lots of questions but also don't forget that despite the wealth of knowledge that we have in #etmooc, there are a lot of great resources to be found on the Web. See if you can seek out a tutorial that addresses your question, and if you find something great, share it with the Google community in the [Tools & Tips](#)

section and tweet it out using the [#etmooc hashtag](#). You might help another person who had the same question!

Let's see if we can create something that is not just another hashtag—and, not just another course.

Twitter

Setting Up Twitter

- What is Twitter? This [video](#) provides a good overview of how it works. Twitter also provides a helpful [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) section for new users. Charlotte-Anne Lucas has a “[Twitter 101](#)” post too, which includes great additional resources and insights.
- If you don't yet have a Twitter account, learn how to [sign up](#) (including helpful tips for choosing a username).
- After creating your Twitter account, we recommend that you [customize](#) your profile picture, header photo and background wallpaper. Be sure to include a description of your interests and the link to your blog, [about.me](#) or [flavors.me](#) page. This helps others to determine whether you might share common learning interests when they are deciding whether to follow you. If you stick with the ‘egg’ as your profile picture people might mistake you for a [spam account](#) or suspect that you might not plan to be a long-term Twitter user.
- Take a [tour](#) of your new Twitter home page and learn how to tweet, how to monitor notifications when others mention you or contact you through a Direct Message (DM) and more!
- Once you've created your profile and become familiar with the basics of your Twitter space, we recommend that you [subscribe](#) to the [#etmooc participant lists](#). If you'd like to subscribe to the [planning committee](#), you can do so as well. Additional information about using Twitter lists to organize your followers—which we recommend—is available [here](#).
- We highly recommend that you [follow](#) the [@etmooc](#) account for important information, announcements and interesting reads.
- Twitter has its own language, which you can read more about [here](#).
- Wondering how to tweet? A basic guide is available [here](#).
- Always use the course [hashtag #etmooc](#)—a [folksonomy](#)—when tweeting about (discussing or sharing) articles or ideas that seem relevant to any of the weekly topics.
- One way to monitor others' tweets to the [#etmooc](#) tag is by [saving it as a search](#)

on Twitter and [returning to it](#) for review. Other, more effective ways to monitor the course hashtag can be found by using other free platforms such as [Hootsuite](#) or old [TweetDeck](#) (TweetDeck tutorial [part one](#) & [part two](#)). We also recommend both the Twitter ([android](#)) ([iPhone](#)) ([Windows phone](#)) and [Hootsuite](#) apps for beginners—both of which are free—for mobile.

- Looking for hashtags that are specific to your area of interest? Try this [list](#) for educators to start. Are you in Higher Education? This [list](#) might be helpful. Organizational learning? These [suggestions](#) may be useful. Overall, though, we suggest that you watch which hashtags others—who share your interests—use.
- Be aware that there are [spambots](#) and other general malcontents who pop up periodically on Twitter. Here are some tips to [spot](#)—and [stop](#)—spammers and [phishing campaigns](#). If you think you may have accidentally fallen prey to a phishing campaign, [here's](#) what you can do about it.
- Monitor your followers as they begin to follow you and try to [ensure](#) that they are human, not spambots. Nevertheless, if you suspect you may have missed some spam followers for any reason, here's one way to help [prune](#) your list somewhat.

Twitter Live Chats

- You might want to participate in one or more of our weekly, live Twitter [chats](#) during #etmooc. Or, if you are looking for Twitter chats on other subjects, [Cybraryman](#) has created a [list](#) of a number of educational chats as well as some helpful information about how to [host and/or participate](#) in a live chat.

Finding and Connecting with Others on Twitter

In #etmooc, we will be sharing and building knowledge together in networks. Consequently, the connections we make with others—our Personal Learning Networks (PLNs)—are incredibly important for our own learning both during and after the 'course' ends.

- Hybrid Pedagogy recently published an article about PLNs that includes some helpful [advice](#) on PLN building within the context of [setting a learning goal](#). This is particularly relevant for our learning context.
- Howard Rheingold (and some of his Twitter followers) have also provided some great [strategies](#) for finding others to connect with on Twitter.

General Twitter Advice

There are no hard and fast rules of Twitter—they shift and they differ depending on individual networks. What is acceptable among some groups may not be okay with others. However, here are a few general tips that can be helpful for a new user:

- Twitter's nuances can feel a bit confusing at first. Check out Mediabistro's great [tips](#) (with many, many helpful resources!) for new Twitter users
- An important element of Twitter is giving credit to others. You might want to review this helpful [article](#) (note that we do advocate the use of MT and HT).
- Heidi Cohen has provided some additional Twitter [etiquette](#) suggestions are worth a review.
- Tweeting multiple messages or articles in a short timespan can reduce the effectiveness of what you are trying to share or convey. This [slide](#) provides some good advice about that.

Google+ Communities

Setting Up Google+ and Google+ Communities

Our [#etmooc Google+ Communities](#) site will be available for lengthier, deeper conversation among participants.

- In order to join, you will first need to [set up a Google+ account](#).
- If you're new to Google+, before moving on you may want to become more familiar with some of its [key features](#), including how to 'share' posts, reshare them and how to use Google+ circles.
- Kevin Brookhouser has created a great [tutorial](#) on some of the Google+ communities basics.
- Hashtags work in Google+, too! Read [here](#) for more information.

The 'Social' Aspects of Social Media

The following is by no means an exhaustive list of the variety of social situations one might encounter on social media, and there may be more than one way to handle each situation appropriately. Below we've tried to provide suggestions on a few aspects of

social media spaces that are important. Overall, it's critical to remember that technology only augments our ability to communicate with one another—our 'online' presences are really inseparable from our 'In Real Life' (IRL) selves and the same goes for others. A good, general tip, then, is to guide your choices and actions by how you might handle a situation in your workplace or another physical social setting.

Similarly, bear in mind that your [professional reputation](#) (PDF) matters. The Innovative Educator has shared some [tips](#) on managing and protecting it that are worth reviewing. Social networking is also all about fostering conditions that support community, which includes building trust among individuals. Be a good digital citizen when interacting with others, help each other out and it will go a long way to helping form positive relationships and with each other.

Blogging

If you do not have a blog, we recommend that you create one in WordPress, Blogger or EduBlogs. Basic instructions to do so follow below.

[WordPress](#)

- WordPress has put together a '[Get Started](#)' section that explains how to sign up for an account, create a post and more.
- More basic WordPress tips have been collected [here](#).
- When you're comfortable navigating WordPress, we recommend setting up [pingbacks](#).

[Blogger](#)

- Blogger has created a helpful [video tutorial](#) explaining how to sign up for a free account, customize your blog and create a new post.

[Edublogs](#)

- Edublogs has create a comprehensive user guide for setting up and using an Edublog account as an educator [here](#), including a section for [additional support](#).

General Blogging Advice

- Allow for comments to be posted immediately to your blog—this can help generate conversation more quickly.
- Does the idea of openly offering your personal thoughts feel a bit daunting? Terry Freedman offers some [tips](#). Still not convinced? Check [this](#) out.
- Did you just write a blog post? Share it with others by tweeting it to the [#etmooc](#) hashtag.

Reading and Commenting on Others' Blog Posts

- Once you have your blog set up, you may want to submit it to our aggregator to share your [#etmooc](#) posts with other participants on our hub site.
- Here are the instructions for [how to connect to the #etmooc blog hub](#)
- Visit the [hub site](#) to read others' blog posts. Please leave comments on other participants' posts when you find the topic interesting or have a suggestion—such as a related reading, for example—to offer. This helps all of us to learn and grow.

Social Bookmarking

Did you know that there are a number of ways to save your links other than a bookmark in your browser? Social bookmarking allows you to access your bookmarks from any computer, anytime. No matter what you choose, try to save your resources by tagging to 'etmooc' each time, when possible—this will help other participants to locate great resources too.

Diigo

- [Diigo](#) is a great tool that we highly recommend—it allows for bookmarking, annotating web pages and more. We have started a Diigo [#etmooc group](#) that you should consider joining.

Delicious

- [Delicious](#) is also a good tool for saving bookmarks. It was recently redesigned and may have an improved user experience.