

Twitter Guide

This is a guide to help navigate the ins and outs of Twitter. Step 1-3 cover how to create an account, and the following steps go through what else Twitter is capable of!

So, what is Twitter? It is a social platform where users share their thoughts, news, and general information in less than 140 characters - the trickiest part is keeping tweets under this limit. Users follow each other in order to keep tabs on and communicate with certain people.

Step 1

Create an account.

Go to www.twitter.com

Step 2

Sign up! Simply follow their instructions in the second box.

Your handle describes who you are, and is how people will interact with you and include you in conversation.

A screenshot of the Twitter website's sign-in and sign-up interface. The top section is for signing in, featuring a text input field labeled 'Phone, email or username', a 'Password' input field, and a blue 'Sign In' button. Below these is a checkbox for 'Remember me' and a link for 'Forgot password?'. The bottom section is for new users, titled 'New to Twitter? Sign up', and contains three input fields: 'Full name', 'Email', and 'Password'. A yellow 'Sign up for Twitter' button is positioned at the bottom right of this section. The background of the interface is a dark blue space-themed image.

Step 3

Finalize your profile with a picture and description. Your profile picture, header image, and bio represent who you are, and allow you to engage in serious and impactful conversations. Including your actual picture and name will make more people comfortable with interacting with you.

My username is @EEHarmon, and my photo and bio represent who I actually am. This makes what I tweet more credible as I appear to be an actual person.



Step 4

Follow people! Start by following friends & people you know.

You can search for certain people in the upper right hand corner - just type in their name, or username. Twitter will eventually give you follow suggestions based on your interests.



Tip: What is a username?

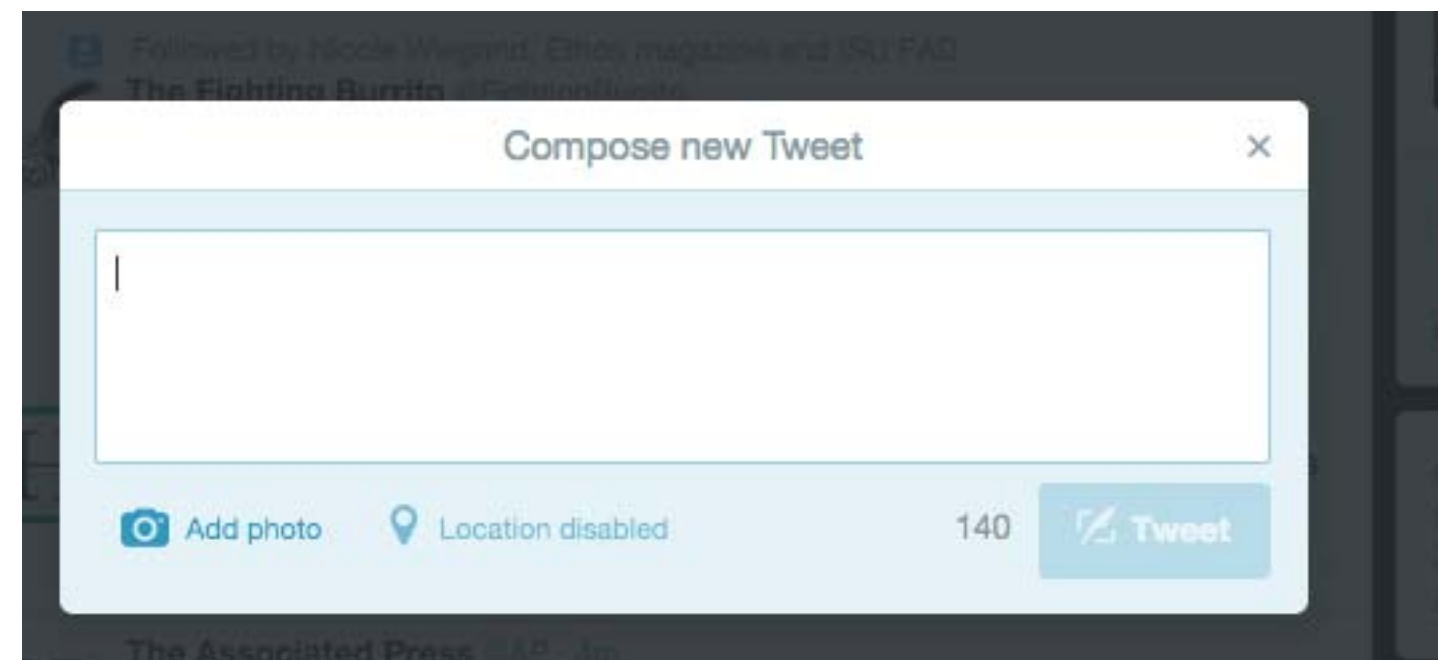
This is your Twitter handle, and what you use to log in with. My twitter handle/username is @EEHarmon.

Once you find who you are looking for, simply click on the "Follow" button, and you are now following this person, or account!



Step 5

Start tweeting! Click on the blue button in the upper right hand corner.



Write your tweet! [Remember, the tweet must be under 140 characters]

Creating Tweet Content

If you want to direct a tweet at a certain person or account, include their username.

Example: `.@karlabwell, I love clean water! #cleanwaterfight`

Notice the period before Karla's username? If you start with a username, but want other people to see it, you must include the period. If you don't include the period, the tweet can still be seen by other people - it is not a private message.

Mentioning: if you simply want to reference another user, include their username in your tweet.

Example: `I love clean water and so does @karlabwell! #cleanwaterfight`

So, what's the difference between a # and the @? I can direct my tweet at someone, or mention them with @, and the # denotes a topic of conversation and puts your tweet in the larger conversation about that subject.

When you search #cleanwaterfight, you will see your tweet, along with all other tweets that included that #, even from people you don't follow. See below!

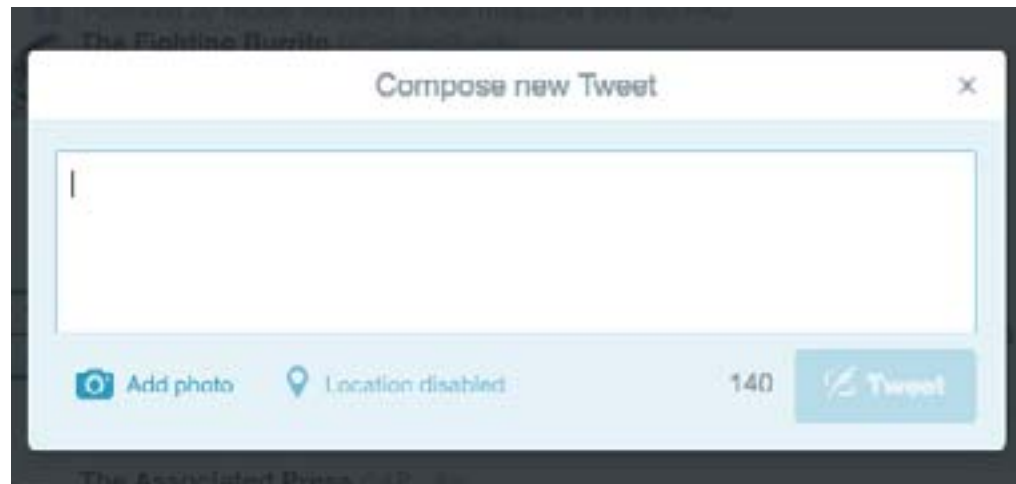


How do I reply to someone who tweeted at me on Twitter, or enter their conversation?

Just hit reply and Twitter will auto populate their username. Then keep your Tweet at 140 characters!



How do I add a photo to my tweet?



Click on the blue button in the lower left hand corner. It will give you an option to upload your photo - then you just have to find your photo on your computer and you are good to go! Adding a photo will consume some of your 140 characters.

What is retweeting?

Retweeting allows you to share something that you found great, or of value, etc.



Just click on the retweet button at the bottom of the tweet. You can also copy and paste the content of the tweet and add your own text. Make sure to include RT (meaning retweet) and the handle of the original composer.

Other questions?

Please let me know at emily@iowacci.org! I'm happy to help. Tweeting is also possible from your smart phone, tablet, you name it. If you'd like tips on that just contact me.

Thank you!