

David Sher, Professor Nassau Community College
Mathematics/Computer Science/Information Technology Department
Garden City, NY 11530
David.Sher@ncc.edu

EXPERIENCES WITH TWITTER AND INTRODUCTORY COLLEGE MATHEMATICS COURSES

WHAT IS TWITTER

- ✘ Broadcast
- ✘ Short messages - 140 Characters
- ✘ Graphics
- ✘ Links
- ✘ Short duration - 1 week
- ✘ Limitations can be a benefit
 - + Less distracting
 - + Forced concise



HOW I USE TWITTER

- ✘ Bulletin board
 - + Quizzes
 - + Support
 - + Review
- ✘ Reply to Inquiries
- ✘ Cool links
- ✘ Math4sher



CHALLENGES

- ✘ Don't want accounts
 - + Twazzup & Twinitor
- ✘ Tribalism
 - + Persistence
- ✘ Lost Tweets
 - + Verify
 - + Alternatives
- ✘ Weakest Students



QUIZZES

- ✘ Starting class with 10 minute question
 - + Settles class
 - + Review
 - + Encourage prompt
 - + Feedback
- ✘ Twitter Advantages:
 - + Advanced notice
 - + Absent students



STUDENT MESSAGES

- ✘ Quick inquires
 - + Due dates
 - + Email
 - + Assignment clarifications



TAGS

- ✘ Private topic spaces on twitter
- ✘ #shermat111 for my mat111
- ✘ Separates out relevant from nonsense
- ✘ Students can post too
 - + They won't



TWINITOR & TWAZZUP

- ✘ Twitter search engines
- ✘ As reliable as twitter
- ✘ No log in required
- ✘ Twinator Wants to put viruses on
 - + If it asks you to download something, don't
- ✘ Twazzup better now
- ✘ www.twazzup.com or www.twinitor.com



SMS (TEXTING)

- ✘ Text "follow @math4Sher" To 40404
- ✘ Tweets will be texted to you
- ✘ "off @math4sher" stops twitter sms
- ✘ Your results may vary
- ✘ <https://support.twitter.com/articles/14020>
- ✘ Track command doesn't actually work.



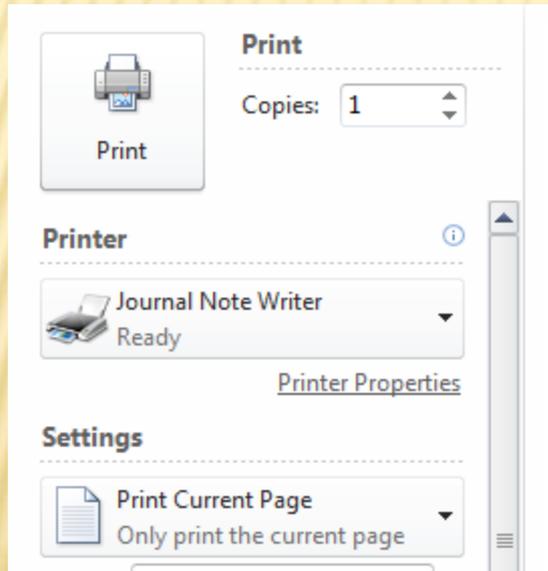
BIG TWEETS

- ✘ Some things not 130 letters
- ✘ Can tweet pictures
- ✘ Windows:
 - + prnt scr Button
 - + Paint accessory
 - + Paste
 - + Save as gif
- ✘ Mac:
 - + Command shift 3
 - + Creates png on desktop



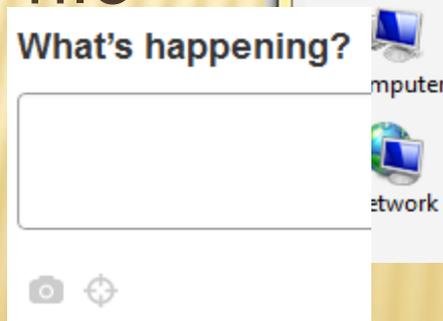
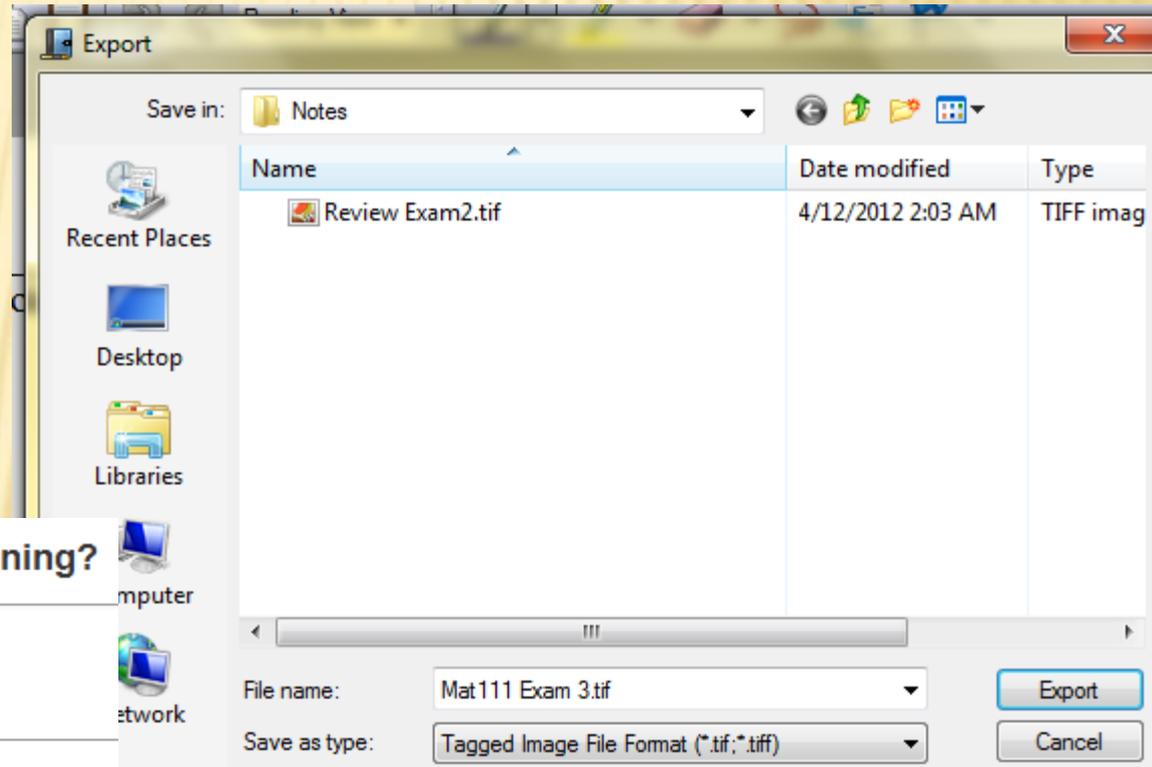
TWEETING DOCUMENTS

- ✘ 1 page at a time, like review sheet or instructions
- ✘ Print to journal note writer



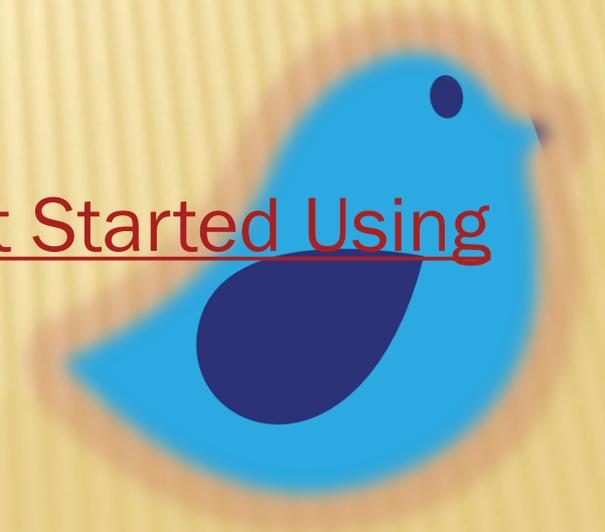
TWEETING DOCUMENTS (2)

- ✘ Export as (in file menu of Windows Journal) and select tif as your file type
- ✘ Open tif file in paint accessory save as gif
- ✘ Attach gif file to tweet



RELATED WORK

- ✘ The effect of Twitter on college student engagement and grades
- ✘ Student Behaviors and Opinions Regarding the Use of Social Media, Mobile Technologies, and Library Research
- ✘ Grassroots Professional Development: How Teachers Use Twitter
- ✘ #mathchat
- ✘ Eight Videos to Help Teachers Get Started Using Twitter



CONCLUSION

- ✘ Twitter makes broadcast communication easier
- ✘ Students can resist
- ✘ Allows students to get advanced notice or know what they missed.
- ✘ Do not need a smart phone can follow by text
- ✘ #tag focuses search
- ✘ Use images to overcome character limit.

