Students must learn how to use social media as many of today's editors must know it as well.

“I learned a lot about how Twitter has changed journalism.”
-Whitney Carlson

---

Remix is a new segment of Education content on MediaShift, featuring interesting and innovative journalism assignments, courses and curricula. Writers detail their ideas and work and, where possible, provide links and materials, so other educators can adapt them in their own programs. If you’re interested in sharing your approaches to be remixed at other schools, contact education curator Katy Culver.

As audiences move to digital platforms for news and information, editing jobs are evolving. Today’s editors must know how to use digital tools, including social media. That makes it essential for educators to use those tools in their editing classrooms.

For students or even pros trying to sharpen their editing or writing skills, Twitter is the perfect tool for digital learning.

Twitter demands conciseness in a 140-character tweet, and it mimics headline writing.

Students in an editing class at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln said using Twitter reinforced traditional journalism skills while teaching them about new methods of news delivery.

“I learned a lot about how Twitter has changed journalism,” student Whitney Carlson wrote in a paper after the Twitter assignment. “People want concise, easy-to-read headlines. They want news to be updated throughout the day with new and changing events.”

Celebrate Digital Learning Day (#DLDay) on Feb. 5 by incorporating Twitter in your lesson plans.

TWEETING HEADLINES
Distribute the same story to a classroom of editing students. Ask students to write a headline for the story in less than 100 characters so it can be tweeted along with a link to the story itself. Tell students good headline writing rules apply: The tweet must accurately reflect the story and make readers want to know more.

**Check out MediaShift Sponsorship opportunities!**

Course Remix: Adding Twitter to Editing Classes | Mediashift | PBS http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2014/02/course-remix-adding-twitter-to-ed...
They also follow several news sources and each other. Each week students must tweet two to three links or photos that pertain to editing or language. They use a hashtag so the tweets are easy to find. The tweets can be links to interesting stories about language, screen grabs of gaffes or typos, nuggets of editing advice, or grammar and style tips.

At the end of the assignment, students write a short paper briefly describing what they learned from their Twitter experience. They also cite the favorite tweets they saw because of the assignment.

The assignment requires students to write tightly and to read more about editing and language. They also learn that the value of Twitter really depends on whom you follow.

Any of these approaches would be an easy remix into editing classes or other courses in journalism curricula. Feel free to adapt them for your own use and send questions if you need help.

Associate Professor Sue Burgynski Bullard, a former newspaper editor, teaches editing, reporting and multimedia classes at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is on the executive committee of the American Copy Editors Society, whose national convention in March 2014 offers several sessions on learning digital tools for professionals and students. You can find her on Twitter @suebb.
Behind the Scenes of NPR Planet Money's T-Shirt Project

— Hello: I want to take a stab at a concept that I believe ...

How BizJournals.com Showcases Personal Brand ...

— Anyone interested in personal branding should get:

Journalism & Digital Education Roundup, ...

— It's blank?

Pitch Perfect: Selling Startups at Entrepreneurship Boot ...

— The Lean Startup model is a powerful and

Doug Fisher • 16 days ago

Yes, been teaching SMS/Twitter for almost a decade after seeing a newspaper's online CMS included a box for an SMS message when the desk filed the regular story. It's very useful. I have a PDF form, if anyone wants (dfisher@sc.edu) that stops at 140 characters that I start with before going "live." Also have made linking practices and Storify part of my editing classes because, as Sue says, curation is part of the game now.

2 • Reply • Share

1 Comment

ALSO ON MEDIASHIFT

WHAT'S THIS?

How BizJournals.com Showcases Personal Brand ...

— Anyone interested in personal branding should get:

Journalism & Digital Education Roundup, ...

— It's blank?

Pitch Perfect: Selling Startups at Entrepreneurship Boot ...

— The Lean Startup model is a powerful and

Mark Glaser

GET OUR NEWSLETTERS

Social Media

Business

Education

Legacy Media

Global View

Events

Collaboration

Idea Lab

About MediaShift

Sponsor MediaShift

MediaShift Events

MediaShift E-Books

Contact Us

Daily Must Reads

E-Books and Self-Publishing Roundup

Journalism Education Roundup

MediaShift Daily

Idea Lab Daily

Collaboration Central

MediaShift Events

Subscribe

Privacy Policy Terms of Use Sponsor MediaShift

Copyright 2014, Public Broadcasting Service (PBS)