

Twitter Tag

Instructions:

Evaluate information found on a topic using Twitter as your search tool. Identify a controversial subject using a popular hashtag and follow the subject to explore sources and authority. You will then conduct a comparable search on the same topic using library resources.

*Instructors note: You can provide a list of hashtags relevant to your course or allow students to choose something that interests them personally. Some examples include:
#medicareforall #blacklivesmatter #muslimban #womensmarch #gunrights

Part 1:

Write down your discovery hashtag here: # _____

1. Conduct a search in Twitter for your hashtag and write the names of the first three posters that appear in your search.
3. Select one of the first three tweets to examine, can you tell what side of the issue each that content creators is on? What evidence is present in their tweets to support this?
4. Now, look at the user profiler for this account. What can you tell about their authority on the subject? Open a new search window and search the user's name. Are they active anywhere else online? What do others say about them?
5. Go back and scroll through your search results and write down what other hashtags are commonly used in conjunction with yours.
7. Primary sources are documents, images or artifacts that provide firsthand testimony or direct evidence concerning a topic. Imagine you are researching your topic, can you find a tweet, picture or video that could be used as a primary source? Describe the content below and why you believe it would qualify.

Part 2:

Go to the [library homepage](#) and conduct a search using OneSearch on the same subject by entering your hashtag contents as plain text (#blacklivesmatter becomes “black lives matter”). Check the box on the left-hand column so that you will only see “scholarly (peer reviewed) journals”.

1. How many search results did you retrieve? Write the titles of the first three articles that generated in your search.
2. Select one of the first three articles. From the initial article record alone, can you tell what side of the issue each the authors are on? What evidence is present to support this?
3. Within the same article page, what other *subject terms* are used in conjunction with the one you used?
4. Now, look deeper at the author(s) of this article. What can you tell about their authority on the subject? Open a new search window and search the user’s name.

Part 3:

Discuss the similarities and differences in your two searches and the information you found on both. Can you imagine a scenario where content found on twitter could inform your library search or vice versa?