

FAQs: Participating in Social Work Today's Twitter Chats

Taking part in Twitter chats can seem daunting at first, but with time and practice, you'll become more accustomed to them and begin to enjoy the benefits of participating in them. The following questions will help orient you to Twitter chats and show you how to make the most of your experience with Social Work Today's Twitter chats.

What is a Twitter chat?

A Twitter chat is a conversation conducted through tweets. Each tweet has to include a special hashtag determined before the chat so all of the tweets in the chat are "held together" in the chat.

What hashtag does Social Work Today use for its chats?

#SWTchat

Why should I participate in a Twitter chat?

A Twitter chat allows you to participate in an interactive, dynamic discussion of a topic you care about. It helps you broaden your social network and get exposure to other perspectives. And it's fun!

What do I need to participate in a Twitter chat?

You need a Twitter account. If you don't have one, you can go to <https://twitter.com/> to create one.

How do I participate in a Social Work Today Twitter chat?

At the time of the chat, log in to your Twitter account and do a search for #SWTchat so you can see all the tweets that contain that hashtag. Make sure to click on the "Latest" link so you can see the most recent tweets containing that hashtag. During the chat, the chat host will tweet a series of questions to which participants can respond. Each question tweet will begin with Q1, Q2, etc. To respond to a particular question, start your tweet with the letter A followed by the number of the question to which you are responding (for example, A1). Don't forget to use the #SWTchat hashtag for each tweet so the tweet shows up in the chat.

What does a Twitter chat look like?

There are many examples of Twitter chats online. Here's one:

<https://storify.com/BufferNicole/bufferchat-6-18-14-personal-improvements>

Is there anything else I should know about participating in a Twitter chat?

One thing to remember is that every tweet you send during a chat will show up in your personal Twitter stream. Oftentimes, people who participate in Twitter chats will tweet a message to their followers right before entering the chat to let their followers know about the chat so the ensuing tweets don't seem confusing.

I'm still not sure I understand Twitter chats. Where can I get more information?

There are a lot of articles online where you can learn more about Twitter chats. Here's one example: <https://blogs.constantcontact.com/how-to-join-the-conversation/>