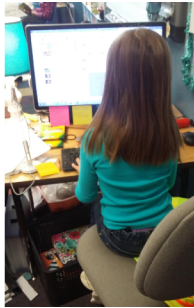


Understanding and Applying New Literacies in Second Grade Using Twitter

"Students as digital citizens are capable of meaningful discourse outside school walls when given the support to achieve it."



What can I do in my class with New Literacies to effectively encourage student discourse?

Class Context

- Second grade classroom
- 21 Students
- One computer- limited access to Twitter (after 2:30 pm)
- Cell phone using a document camera to show the Tweets (anytime before 2:30 pm)
- Students were allowed to make Tweets with the expectation that they fit within the 140 character limit and stated what we were learning and why, or were responding to or asking a question.

Research Methods

Over the course of the school year, students were given the opportunity to use Twitter. Their tweets had to stay within the 140 character limit of Twitter, include what they were learning and why, or ask and answer a question. Students learned how to tweet using words and/or pictures. At the end of the study, student work was analyzed to determine how many met this criteria.

Data

Out of 115 Tweets:

- 15 tweets shared what students were learning and why
- 17 tweets asked questions
- 2 tweets answered questions
- 38 tweets used words only
- 1 tweet used pictures only
- 15 tweets used pictures and words
- 27 tweets made as a class

Data Analysis

Students were able to share what they were learning and why using 140 characters or less. They used discussions around these tweets to build off of other students' questions and comments to engage in meaningful discourse. Students were able to identify what would be helpful to tweet about and what would not help them to learn. All students were engaged in making tweets and reading responses. This activity allowed students who are language learners and students with an IEP to engage also and feel connected with the class and the world .

Conclusion

By using New Literacies (Twitter) in the classroom, students were able to connect and engage with other classrooms in meaningful discourse about content and culture. They were also able to engage with professionals to ask questions about their field of expertise.

Next Steps

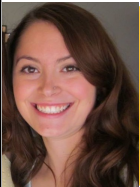
- Reach out to more professionals such as scientists & authors to learn from
- Connect with classrooms learning similar content
- Continue to make Twitter a part of classroom culture

Student Tweets

Tweet to Cayman International School from my class:

Do you have volcanoes? #mvesocialstudies byer 16 (February 25, 2016)

Response from class at Cayman International School: @msbyers2ndgrade:
We do not have volcanoes, our island was build up by sediment over time. (March 8 2016)



By Nickole Byer
nbyer@ecsdnv.net
@msbyers2ndgrade

Tweet to Astronaut Scott Kelly:
@StationCDRKelly We are a 2nd grade class in NV, and we want to know how you watered you plant in space without gravity? #mvescience (February 29, 2016)

Response from Peter Caltner
@PC0101 @msbyers2ndgrade
@StationCDRKelly Water was injected with a syringe. @astro_kjell is doing it here. (March 14, 2016)

