



Paper Twitter

by Paul Walsh

Topic: Decided by teacher and/ or learners

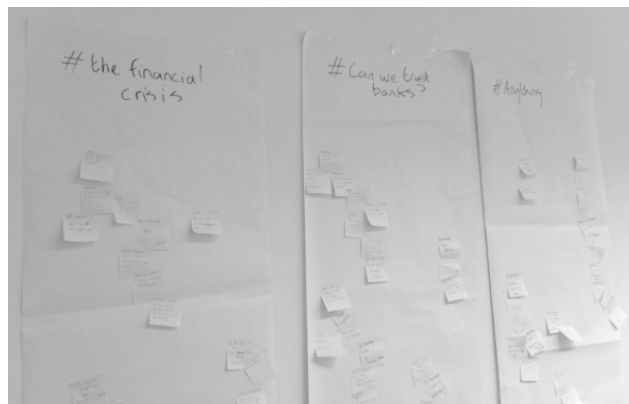
Language: Topic vocabulary / expressing opinions/ question forms

Activity: Having a Twitter conversation

Level: A2+

Time: 30 mins+

Materials: Large sheets of paper, tape, post-it notes, camera/ laptop/ projector (optional)



Preparation

Hang three large sheets of paper and tape them to one wall of your classroom or on separate walls - as you see fit. Leave enough room for students to come to the paper and mingle.

Procedure

1) Tell learners that they're going to have a conversation. What's a conversation?
Talking between two or more people.

2) Ask learners what they know about Twitter. IMPORTANT: Don't assume that your learners are all 'twitter-ate'!

3) Go through 'things you need to know about Twitter':

tweet	140 characters
username	Reply (@username)
thread	hashtag

(For Advanced Paper Twitter users: Retweet, Pinned tweet, Follow, Add picture)

4) Get learners to brainstorm relevant, interesting topics in groups.

5) Each group then chooses the best topic from their list.

6) Write these topics on the board.

7) Learners vote on their favourite topic - 1 vote each - they can vote for their own topic.

8) The topics with the most votes are the discussion topics. Write these topics with a hashtag on the hanging pieces of paper.

9) Tell the learners: 'Ok, so you know that today we're going to have a conversation on Twitter. Paper Twitter. But we need some questions to start the conversation'.

10) Choose 3 of the best students in the class and allocate a topic/ thread to each of them. Ask them to write a short question to start the conversation in each topic/ thread and post it on the Twitter forum.



11) Say to these three students: it's your responsibility to monitor the conversation and keep the conversation going with interesting questions and responses.

12) Give each student a little stack of post-it notes and say: now you have twenty minutes to have your conversations. Go!

13) Monitor as appropriate. Learners will ask for spellings and assistance. Take photos of the developing Twitter feed if possible.

14) After the task has finished, take the SD card from your camera, put it in your computer and project the pictures onto the wall.

15) Ask learners questions about their 'tweets'. Point out good language use. Clarify any problems.

16) Post up pictures of your Paper Twitter on the [decentralised teaching and learning Google+ community](#) OR twitter - hashtag #papertwitter

Follow up

Base homework on the points raised by the learners themselves during the activity. For example, one question my learners raised was 'How much would it cost for a 20 foot container going from Hamburg to Shanghai?'

Variations

You could do this activity two times in a course. The first time would be at the start of a course to generate interest in the topic and see what learners already know. The second time would be near the end of the course.

What you would be looking for here are examples of good language use, evidence that learners have grasped important concepts and also that they can communicate using subject vocabulary and collocations.

