## **Common Patterns of Participation on Twitter**

It can be difficult to believe that meaningful professional development can actually occur in Twitter, a social media service that limits messages to 140 characters. To build confidence in the value of joining the Twitterverse, for a few weeks, consider monitoring the messages that any educator using Twitter is posting, and then complete this handout.

Type of educator you will monitor:	
	witter whose work better mirrors your own. Include Twitter stream, and a short description of his or he
Looking for suggestions? Consider following	g the streams of one of the following educators.
Nicholas Provenzano (http://twitter.com/interests in the classroom integration of ted	<b>thenerdyteacher):</b> High school English teacher with chnology
Eric Townsley (http://twitter.com/erictow in educational technology, school leadership	rnsley): Middle school principal in lowa with interests ip, assessment, and pedagogy
the contract of the contract o	<b>20classroom):</b> Instructional technologist at a middle the role that social media can play in teaching and
Nancy Blair (http://twitter.com/blairteac middle grades education, English and langu	<b>h):</b> School improvement consultant with interests in uage arts, and literacy.
Types of Activities Observed (Check all that apply.)	Frequency of Posting
$\square$ Sharing knowledge and resources	☐ About once a week
$\square$ Monitoring educational news sources	☐ About once a day
☐ Tracking important conferences	☐ Several times per day
☐ Encouraging reflection	
$\square$ Gathering instant feedback	
☐ Mentoring colleagues	
☐ Other:	

## **Questions to Consider**

1. What trends do you notice in the patterns of participation for the educator that you've been monitoring? Are certain behaviors more common than others? Are there certain behaviors that seem more valuable to you than others? Which ones? Why?

- 2. Did you learn any lessons that will be valuable in your primary work while monitoring the Twitter stream of this educator? What were they? How did this information help you do your job better or make your work easier?
- 3. Did you learn any lessons about networking in social media spaces while monitoring the Twitter stream of this educator? What were they?
- 4. What questions about common patterns of communication on Twitter do you still have? What excites you about building your own network on Twitter?
- 5. How do you intend to build on this learning experience? Will you study the Twitter streams of additional educators? Are you ready to start your own Twitter account?