

New to Twitter? Here are a few tips and terms to maximize your Twittering experience.

Tweet: Answer the question: What are you doing? This is your update and how you participate in conversations. You have only 140 characters – so be short and witty. You can include Web links.

Follow: This means you want to receive others' Tweets. Just click on Follow and you'll start receiving Tweets from this person, company or service.

Followers: These are people who are following your Tweets. You don't need followers to have a conversation. See Search below. But following and followers make Twitter much more interesting. You can keep up with people and topics that interest you.

Tip: See who your friends are following. Click on the name and you can follow too! Look up JCTC's followers. You'll find fellow students, faculty and staff. Have an interest in basketball? Search for your favorite team and find others who share your passion – then follow along! Love a certain celebrity? Many are Tweeting – follow along!

Caution: Some people pretend to be a celebrity, so use caution that you are following the Real person. Sometimes can double check by going to his/her Website and click their TWITTER button.

Hashtag: # This symbol is used to organize items by area of interest. For example, if you add #JCTC to the end of your Tweet, it will be included on a page with other items with the #JCTC. If you want to have a conversation with fellow Twitters about JCTC, be sure to add #JCTC, then search for #JCTC to see what others have said.

@JCTC So what's up with the @ symbols? This is a Tweet directed at a specific person, even though everyone following you can see it.

Direct messages: Send a direct message to have a private conversation.

Search: Search on a topic to see what others are saying about any topic under the sun. Participate in the conversation by adding a Tweet. Use a hashtag (#) or the key word in your Tweet. Do a few searches, you'll see how it works.

Block: This is a tool that allows you to block people you don't want following you. Not everyone on Twitter is worth following. It's OK to block them.

Trending topics: These are the hot topics on the moment. Click on a topic to see what all the talk is about.

Favorites: Love a Tweet and don't want to lose it – add it to your Favorites!

