



## Why use Twitter?

Twitter is just one example of how social media is changing communication expectations, on the web and beyond. It emphasizes speed and brevity and provides a public forum for a wide variety of topics. Designed to be used both on the web and on mobile phones, Twitter forces you to condense your communication into 140 characters or less for each update.

For this class, you will need to sign up for a Twitter account, connect to the official class account, then send messages to that account for class discussions.

## Setup:

Setup is a three step process – go to the website, Twitter.com, enter your information, then confirm your new account via e-mail. Please use a username that is recognizable as your name. All of the information you put in during setup can be changed after the end of the semester if you wish.

Already have a twitter account? You can use it for this class, but you might want to create a separate account if your username doesn't match your name and you don't want to change it. Your general updates may be visible to Professor Bosselman, though he doesn't plan to look beyond the class discussion account.

If you don't use your kentlaw e-mail to set up the account, please send a message to [energylawclass@gmail.com](mailto:energylawclass@gmail.com) to specify which e-mail your twitter will be connected to.

## Settings:

You can adjust settings on your Twitter account anytime, but it's a good idea to review them at the beginning to decide if you want to leave the defaults in place. For more information about each settings area, visit the library guide: <http://libraryguides.kentlaw.edu/twitter>.

Settings options: Privacy (on/off), updates & connections for e-mail and mobile phones, and general account information for your profile & design.

## Connections:

To post messages to the class, you'll need to follow and be followed by this account: <http://twitter.com/EnergyLawClass>

You need to initiate your connection to the class account after you have an account and are signed in. You will not see the "follow" button unless you are signed in.

You will also need to be "followed" by the class account. Professor Bosselman's assistant, Beth Minnery ([bminnery@kentlaw.edu](mailto:bminnery@kentlaw.edu)) will approve your follow request and initiate the following connection. But if you choose to keep your account private you will need to approve her request from the class account before the connection is complete. You can reach Beth at 312.906.5119.

Please confirm these connections quickly to make sure you're ready for the class.

## Posting Instructions

The EnergyLawClass account is a locked down so only the followers can see it. Read the instructions on this page carefully and follow them to make sure your posts are handled correctly and you get full credit for your work.

To allow everyone to see class discussion regardless of individual privacy settings, the class account is using a service called "Group Tweet." If you do not follow the instructions below for sending messages, your classmates will not see your posts.

### *Sending Instructions:*

While "Group Tweet" is turned on, posts sent as "direct messages" will be copied automatically into updates for the whole class to read.

You can use this link or follow other shortcuts for direct messages, but you must send direct messages and not general posts or replies:

[http://twitter.com/direct\\_messages/create/EnergyLawClass](http://twitter.com/direct_messages/create/EnergyLawClass)

If this link does not work for you, your connections to the account are not finished. Make sure you're following the class from your twitter account and let the professor know if the class account has not followed you in return.

### *Writing Tips:*

All posts to Twitter are limited to 140 characters, but messages to the class discussion account will be shortened further when they appear to allow the "via @username: " introduction that shows who sent it.

Professor Bosselman will have full access to your message, but try to keep it short enough that everyone can see your messages. Need help shortening your message? Abbreviations can help, but make sure your messages are still legible. Try rewording or editing your messages before adding complex acronyms.

### *Adding Links*

If you need to include a link, please use only bit.ly or tinurl.com – they are the most common tools and offer better security features than other link shorteners:

- <http://bit.ly/> - If you use Firefox, you can install a plugin that lets you preview where a link will take you before you click on it:  
<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/10297>
- <http://tinyurl.com/> You don't need to install anything to preview tinyurl.com links. You just need to go to their website and enable previews:  
<http://tinyurl.com/preview.php>

Find more tips here: <http://libraryguides.kentlaw.edu/twitter>

If you have technical issues with any of these steps, you can contact Emily Barney at [ebarney@kentlaw.edu](mailto:ebarney@kentlaw.edu) or call (during business hours) at 312-906-5630.