# TWEETING A SMOKE SIGNAL

Facebook/Twitter

#### Let's Take a test ....

- You're standing in a large field minding your own business when you hear rumbling sounds in the distance. The sounds begin to intensify, and at first you wonder if it is thunder you hear approaching. Because it's a beautiful, cloud-less day you dismiss this notion. As the rumbling sound grows louder, you begin to see a dust cloud rising just over the ridge a few yards in front of you. Instantly, you become panicked because at that exact moment it dawns on you that the rumbling you're hearing is the sound of hundreds of wild bulls stampeding over the ridge. There are hordes of them and they are bearing down right on top of you. They are clearly faster than you and there is no time to escape. What should you do? Survival experts recommend only one of the following actions:
- A. Lying down and curling up, covering your head with your arms.
- Running directly at the bulls, screaming wildly and flailing your arms in an attempt to scare them in another direction.
- c. Turning and running like heck in the same direction as the bulls are running (even though you know you can't outrun them).
- D. Standing completely still; they will see you and run around you.
- E. Scream bad words at your student(s) for insisting on back-to-nature teambuilding in Wyoming.

## Facts you need to know about technology

- More information was produced in the last thirty years than in the previous 5,000 years combined (Worman 1989)
- A weekday edition of *The New York Times* contains more information than the average person was likely to come across in a lifetime in seventeenth-century England (Wurman 1989)
- Information is doubling every four years (Wurman 1989)
- The blogosphere is now doubling in size every six months. It is sixty times larger than it was three years ago (Sifry 2006)
- The internet is the fastest growing communications media in world history. It took the web four years to reach 50 million users. Compare this to the number of years it took radio (38), personal computers (16), and television (13) to reach that many users (Warschauer 1999).

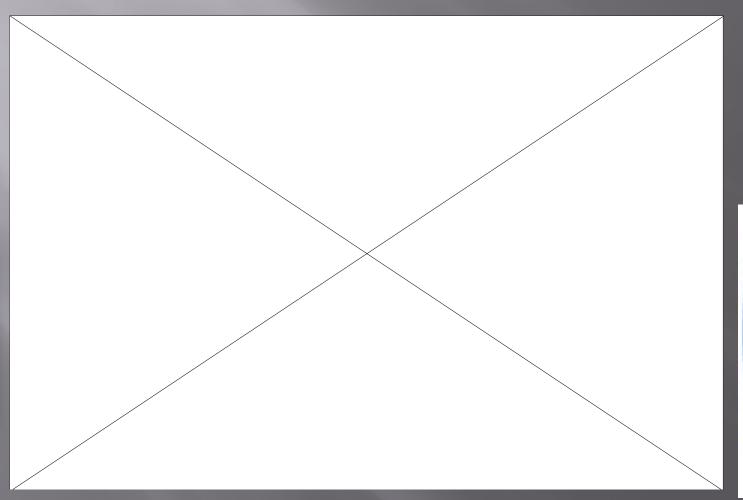
#### Let's Take another test ....

- You are growing up in the dawn of the Information Age. More than ever before in history, the ability to use technology will determine how far you will go in this world. For the most part, people who are technologically savvy will compete and prosper; people who are not technologically inclined will be left behind. Simply put, there is a technology stampede approaching, and it is bearing down right on top of you. What should you do?
- A. Go home, curl up on the sofa, watch a lot of Oprah, and hope the demands of the technology stampede go away.
- B. Stare the Information Age in the face, screaming wildly and flailing your arms, in an attempt to make it go away.
- c. Elevate your technology abilities to the point that you can run with the technology stampede.
- D. Stand completely still. Pray that the Information Age will avoid you.
- E. Scream bad words at your student(s) for growing up in the shadow of a technology stampede.

## Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

 CIPA requires schools and libraries using <a>E-</a> Rate discounts to operate "a technology protection measure with respect to any of its computers with Internet access that protects against access through such computers to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors..." Such a technology protection measure must be employed "during any use of such computers by minors."



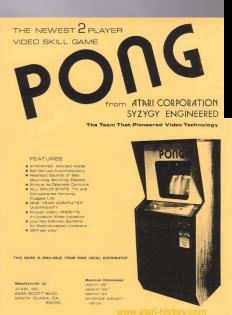


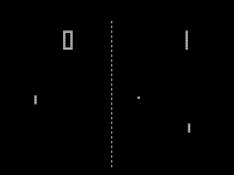


## Two Things to Know

Digital Immigrant







Digital Natives









## These are today's —Digital Native students

- According to Marc Prensky, author of "Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants:"
- Over 10,000 hours playing videogames,
- Over 200,000 emails and instant messages sent and received;
- Over 10,000 hours talking on digital cell phones;
- Over 20,000 hours watching TV (a high percentage fast speed MTV),
- □ Over 500,000 commercials seen all before the kids leave college.
- And, maybe, at the very most, 5,000 hours of book reading.

### Marc Prensky

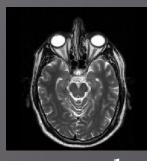
The single biggest problem facing education today is that our Digital Immigrant instructors, who speak an outdated language (that of the pre-digital age), are struggling to teach a population that speaks an entirely new language.

### Really? Texting?

- Since texting became an integral part of our younger generations lives, kids are better spellers than they have been before cell phones? Fact or Fiction?
- According to a study by *Coventry University psychology Profs. Beverly Plester and Clare Wood,* it was found that text messaging actually helped children develop "phonological awareness" which is needed to learn how to correct spellings. Thus helping children learn how to spell.
  - 1. "The proportions of textisms that kids used in their sentence translations was positively linked to verbal reasoning; the more textspeak kids used, the higher their test scores"
  - 2. "The younger the age at which the kids had received mobile phones, the better their ability to read words and identify patterns of sound in speech."



### Marc Prensky



- Neuroplasticity, a phenomenon where the brain constantly reorganizes itself all our child and adult lives based upon the input it receives.
- Imaging experiments have shown that when bind people learn Braille, —visual areas of their brains lit up. Similarly, deaf people use their auditory cortex to read signs.
- Scans of brains of people who tapped their fingers in a complicated sequence that they had practiced for weeks showed a larger area of motor cortex becoming activated then when they performed sequences they hadn't practiced.
- A comparison of musicians versus non-players brains via magnetic resonance imaging showed a 5 percent greater volume in the musicians' cerebellums, ascribed to adaptations in the brain's structure resulting from intensive musical training and practice.

### Marc Prensky

- Digital Natives crave interactivity an immediate response to their each and every action.
- Traditional schooling provides very little of this compared to the rest of their world (one study showed that students in class get to ask a question every 10 hours)
- So it generally isn't that Digital Natives can't pay attention, it's that they choose not to.
- Sesame Street and Toys

## The Medium Changes How We Communicate

- Telegraph
- Radio
- Telephone
- Television

Telegram from my Mom's grandparents upon hearing of her birth:
Want to confirm received package
Did it arrive in good shape
No broken pieces

- Real Time Conversation
- Instant Links
- Groups and Followers

Figure 11: U.S. Teen (13–17) Mobile Adoption—Q4 2008

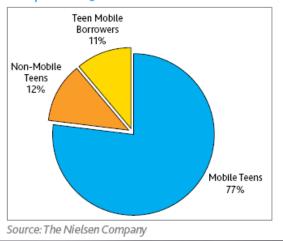
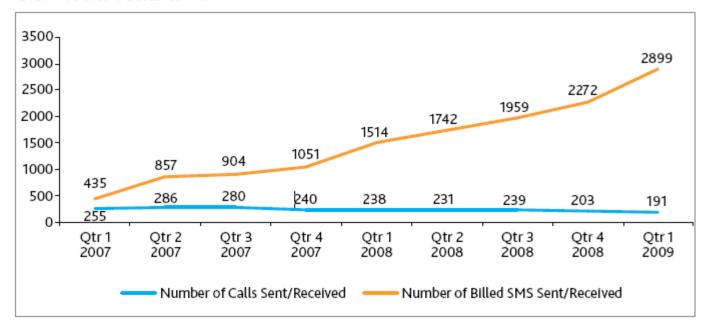


Figure 12: Average Number of Monthly Texts and Phone Calls— U.S. Mobile Teens 13–17



Source: The Nielsen Company

#### Cell Phones

- Most American teachers and administrators believe that cell phones have no place in the educational process.
- Far too often, and certainly today with cell phones, educators' knee-jerk reaction is to view new technologies as a "huge distraction" from the education they are trying to provide.
- Some imagine dozens of these phones ringing constantly, despite the fact that the devices have off switches and penalties can be collectively established and enforced by good teachers.
- As U.S. educators are busy banning cell phones in schools, millions of students in China and Japan, the Philippines, and Germany are using their mobile phones (respectively), to learn English; to study math, health and spelling; and to access live and archived university lectures. Marc Prensky

## Colorado School with Cell Phones?

 A science class where the teacher, Deb Striegel, was having her students, who had video recording capabilities on their phones, capture a lesson on Geology. During the presentation, she mentioned that they will have to recreate the diagram using the video footage at a later date. "This is a global marketplace now. Our students not only have to be literate, they have to be digitally fluent," says Striegel, "They know how to use them as toys, but if we don't teach them how to use them as tools, who's going to?"

#### Cell Phones

- I did a survey of my students and found the following:
- 90% did not turn off their phones even though district policy says it needs to be off.
- Students who have phones will often use them to check time, text, or check email because they are bored.
- Students admit that classes they do not text in are ones where the teacher actually takes the cell phone away.
- So, I had the kids come up with some rules on cell phones, and they did okay.

#### Cell Phones

- At the start of class, take out your phones and turn them off.
- If there is time, or a break, or you finish your work early, you may use your phone to text, play games, internet etc. as long as it is not a distraction to others.
- 3) Phones are to be off when:
  - a) Teacher is talking
  - b) During tests
  - c) When students are presenting
  - d) During any speaker presentation
- Students may use phones to listen to music while working as long as it is not a disruption (must use headphones).
- For the first two incidents, the student's phone will be returned at the end of class. Multiple offenses will result in a loss for the entire day and parent contact.
- 6) Resets at the end of each quarter.
- In case of emergency, ask the teacher for permission to contact a parent or guardian. The student still needs to check out through the office.
- 8) Use of phones is allowed during lunch and passing period.

#### Twitter

- What is it? -Twitter is a service for friends, family, and co-workers to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of quick, frequent messages. People write short updates, often called "tweets" of 140 characters or fewer.
  - What does it mean to follow someone on Twitter?
- Following someone simply means receiving their Twitter updates. When you follow someone, every time they post a new message, it will appear on your Twitter home page.

## Stats in the Millions

	April '08 Visitors	April '09 Visitors	Change
Google	120.79	131.60	9%
Facebook	22.48	71.29	217%
Amazon.com	47.26	50.37	7%
Myspace	58.75	54.6	-7%
twitter	1.22	17.10	1,298%

Source: Nielsen

	Screen name	Location	URL	Followers/friends	Friends	joined
1.	ashton kutcher (aplusk)	<u>here</u>	http://blahg irls.com	2,779,720	182	6 months ago
2.	Ellen DeGeneres (TheEllenShow)	<u>Californi</u> <u>a</u>	http://www .ellentv.com	2,473,630	26	11 months ago
3.	Britney Spears (britneyspears)	Los Angeles, CA	http://www .britneyspear s.com	2,425,669	399,332	10 months ago
4.	CNN Breaking News (cnnbrk)	Everywh ere	http://cnn.c om/	2,254,987	17	31 months ago
5.	Oprah Winfrey (oprah)	Chicago, IL	http://www .oprah.com	1,886,870	14	

June 2009 Source: Twitterholic

	Screen name	Location	URL	Followers/friends	Updates	joined
1.	ashton kutcher (aplusk)		http://blahg irls.com	3,881,635	3,779	6 months ago
2.	Britney Spears (britneyspears)	Los Angeles, CA	http://www .britneyspear s.com	3,619,427	299	10 months ago
3.	Ellen  DeGeneres  (TheEllenShow)	<u>California</u>	http://www .ellentv.com	3,617,430	637	11 months ago
4.	CNN Breaking News (cnnbrk)	<u>Everywhere</u>	http://cnn.c om/	2,795,654	1,147	31 months ago
5.	Twitter (twitter)	San Francisco, CA	http://twitte r.com	2,565, 441	542	33 Months ago

October 2009 Source: Twitterholic

## What other people are doing

- A school in England is trying out Twitter by publishing their daily lunch menu and looking for parent feedback.
- Other teachers in the country and using Twitter as an online discussion forum teacher posts a question, kids research and find links and post to the site. The forum is then printed and used as a discussion piece the next day in school.
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class in Sacramento is using Twitter as a Pen Pal. Students at one school are writing to students at another school working on their communication skills and grammar.
- Shell Terrell an educator/blogger uses Twitter as PLC (Professional Learning Community) hosting discussions, searches, reposting blogs and other topics that support teachers and technology in the classroom. #edchat

#### What to do with Twitter?

- Some schools are using Twitter to make announcements. Three things to consider:
  - Relevant
  - Interesting
  - Up to Date
- Post updates of the football game, maybe a photo of the score or the game itself.
- Take pictures of events, or maybe the set-up of the dance, to create buzz.
- For Facebook, take pictures at a rally and then post them on your Facebook site. Great advertisement and get's kids checking back to see if they were caught doing something at the rally.

## Why Twitter

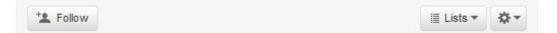
- The good part, anyone can link their twitter account to their cell phone. As such, anytime an account updates, it can show up on your phone as a text message.
- Kids always check their text messages.

### Why Social Networks

- What or where are people going to check out every day? In theory, people are more likely to check their Facebook/myspace/twitter page rather than go to the school website.
- So, if you advertise on Twitter/Facebook/Myspace, with 200 followers, and those people have 200 followers, how many people now know what you are doing at school?
- This is great exposure for you, your school, and your programs.







Art and literature handouts and PowerPoint are all now digitized and online. Check them out at http://rippolito.pbworks.com

about 1 hour ago from TweetDeck

HW: INB Grade Sheet and study for unit exam in next class. Need another copy of grade sheet? Get it at http://rippolito.pbworks.com

about 7 hours ago from web

Thanks to Mrs. Cayson for preparing today's lesson! Still need to digitize everything so for now extra handouts available in B-7.

3:37 PM Oct 29th from web

HW: Use YOUR OWN VOICE! Question: "Why is the Bill of Rights important to us?" Speak your 30 sec to 1 min answer, at 661-347-4990.

8:33 PM Oct 27th from web

Name vukonhistory Location Valencia, CA Web http://rippolito....

17 65 following followers listed

Tweets

294

Favorites

Actions

block yukonhistory report for spam

Following





















#### Home



nytimes M.T.A. Is Short on Money for Security System http://bit.ly/aSKbKQ

8 minutes ago from web



twitter Look! Local trends is fully launched. http://bit.ly/9qHVp5 8 minutes ago from web by jennadawn



edutopia We love that a huge majority of the people we follow are so active in #edchat!

41 minutes ago from TweetDeck



nytimes Two-Year Hiatus for El Bulli in Spain http://bit.ly/duTR2C about 1 hour ago from web



TechCrunch From The Vault, Re: Tablet Hype - The Wonder Of Apple's Tablet http://bit.ly/b2dOwX

about 1 hour ago from bit.ly



**TechCrunch** The Top Ten Groundbreaking Slates http://bit.ly/aG8GvX by @davidjamesdiaz

about 1 hour ago from bit.ly

I also like following The Huffington Post – great articles and sometimes video.

## We love that a huge majority of the people we follow are so active in #edchat!

about 1 hour ago from TweetDeck

Happy #Australia Day! Check out Linda Darling-Hammond's ppt 2 see how they assess their students. http://bit.ly/bFRWwa

about 4 hours ago from TweetDeck

web20classroom One Of The Best Websites For Learning About iPod Touches In Education...http://is.gd/766zr

about 7 hours ago from TweetDeck Retweeted by edutopia and 19 others

@wfryer Here's the best overview on PBL we have: http://bit.ly/bgGwt7 and here's a funny 1 on kindergarten PBL: http://bit.ly/95FMYq

about 5 hours ago from TweetDeck in reply to wfryer

@mmoraru Thanks so much for the Shorty Award nomination! #education

about 5 hours ago from TweetDeck in reply to mmoraru

@wfryer Great question. Let me poll some people here and get back to you.

about 7 hours ago from TweetDeck in reply to wfryer

RT @gdahlby: 5 Reasons Why Educators Should Network: http://bit.ly/9DmQ5f #education

about 8 hours ago from TweetDeck

New Post: Are Schools Responsible for Teaching Manners? http://bit.ly/8Znx6B

about 8 hours ago from TweetDeck

#### Should I let my child use Twitter

- Should I let my child have a phone?
- Should I let my child use the internet?
- Should I let my child drive a car?
- Should I let my child go to the mall without me?
- Each of these choices carries risk associated with it. As parents, we want to protect our children from harm, but as they become older and more independent, we know we must prepare them for the real world. Twitter, just like phones, cars, and a trip to the mall, can have value. We must teach our children how to do all these things responsibly

#### Information

- My Email: msoeth@tusd.net
- Website: www.cada1.org
- Bit.ly
- www.tinyurl.com
- www.pollanywhere.com

#### Still Unsure

- Don't tell people how to do things, tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results
  - George S. Patton