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#### **Review Article**



# A critical analysis of the effects of Twitter on student engagement and grades

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#### **ARTICLE INFO**

#### **ABSTRACT**

Received: 16 Nov 2022 Accepted: 27 Apr 2023 Social media, such as Twitter, have skyrocketed in popularity over the past few years. In fact, social media have been widely used by students and instructors as teaching and learning tools. In response to the increasing use of Twitter in the educational field, we have collected ten studies between 2011 to 2020 in order to assess the relationship between social media, specifically Twitter, and students' engagement and grades. We have conducted a meta-analysis to provide empirical evidence concerning the impact of Twitter on student engagement and achievement. Furthermore, we have utilized the manual approach of content analysis in order to code these articles. Overall, metadata suggests that Twitter has a stronger impact on student engagement than on grades. Nevertheless, its impact is not necessarily positive, especially on grades.

**Keywords:** Twitter, social media, engagement in students learning, achievement, online learning, mobile learning

## INTRODUCTION

It is a fact that technology is widely accepted as a tool to support the teaching and learning process. With the advancement of technology and the rise of Web 2.0, microblogging via Twitter has become an increasingly popular phenomenon since the launch of Twitter in 2006 to enable users to share information and increase their digital footprints (Cleveland et al., 2016; Gao et al., 2012). Twitter is a popular free social networking and microblogging website that allows users to broadcast short posts, which are called tweets. Furthermore, users can post their tweets, retweet, like tweets, and follow other users' tweets using devices like computers or smartphones. Besides broadcasting tweets, users can also post photos, short videos, and hyperlinks, and the most recent development is the use of hashtags. Currently, users can post tweets that are limited to 280 characters.

A survey conducted by Moran et al. (2011) reveals that social media tools have been quickly adapted for use in the classroom, with more than 80% of the instructors surveyed admitting that they used some form of social media in their classrooms. In response to this increasing use, the researchers have analyzed ten studies assessing the relationship between social media and student engagement as well as grades. A critical analysis is conducted to provide empirical evidence concerning the impact of social media use on students' learning achievement and engagement. For the purpose of this study, the term 'social media' refers specifically to Twitter.

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## **Student Engagement**

Student engagement has long been explored and linked to success in academic achievement. Students who are actively engaged in activities are likely to achieve high grades. Astin (1984) stresses that student engagement is indicated by how much physical and psychological energy students dedicate to learning. Following up on Astin's (1984) idea, Kuh (2009) defined the term 'student engagement' as the time and effort invested by students to meet the college's desired outcomes and what schools are doing to motivate students to take part in these programs. In education, student engagement can be defined as the amount of attention, interest, passion, and optimism students invest in academic learning and school-based tasks such as studying, peer and instructor interaction, involvement in school events, or meeting their academic expectations (Kuh, 2009; Kuh et al., 2008).

Similarly, Axelson and Flick (2010) refer to student engagement as "how involved or interested students appear to be in their learning and how connected they are to their classes, their institutions and each other" (p. 38). Based on the definitions above, students need to put forth the effort to develop their knowledge and skills. At the same time, schools need to provide appropriate environments to facilitate students' learning. Student engagement is seen as a means of achieving academic outcomes. This is because genuine engagement in learning will lead to better academic outcomes (Zyngier, 2008), since students have the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues and learn how to transfer information and solve problems creatively.

Motivation is a requirement and a vital component of student engagement in learning (Saeed & Zyngier, 2012). Students who are highly motivated in learning tend to persist for longer and demonstrate more robust engagement in what they do. However, when the motivation is low, students feel bored and tend to disengage. Students engage in Twitter when they interact, share quick and constant feedback related to what they are learning, and keep up to date with each other (Bista, 2015). In this research context, the researchers focus on student engagement when using Twitter as a learning tool.

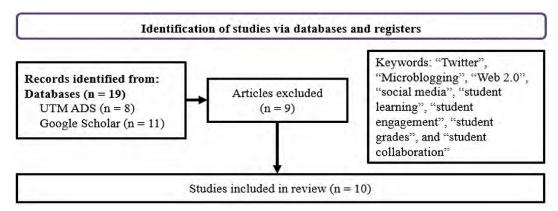
## **Twitter In Education**

Globalization has resulted in enhanced technology, with social media being the second most important reference for students in their learning environment behind books. Furthermore, social media use in the education field is a relatively new concept for educators (Ansari & Khan, 2020). Twitter is one of the most widely used forms of social media; it is used to facilitate the learning process and as a communication medium between students and instructors, enabling them to discuss issues outside class time. Additionally, Twitter usage can be linked to videos, pictures, and links to more expansive blogs and other websites to enhance students' understanding (Java et al., 2007).

According to Huberman et al. (2009), the most intimate connections within this environment consist of all their following and followers; the latest evidence shows that users can have several networks on Twitter. Besides, Twitter could be used by teachers and students to post questions, express feedback, exchange thoughts and share information (Ebner et al., 2010). Students can engage and interact with other practitioners in online communities through Twitter and gain professional exposure to friends and lecturers (Dunlap & Lowenthal, 2009).

Microblogging tools such as Twitter are examples of Web 2.0 technologies. Web 2.0 is a large variety of web-enabled programs that allow users to contribute, exchange, and ingest content (Balakrishnan, 2014). According to Hannay and Fretwell (2011), many universities are using Web 2.0 programs and these innovations have benefits for the university work environment, whereby learners will require Web 2.0 programs to be used for communication among faculty members through live messaging such as Twitter (Hannay & Fretwell, 2011). Furthermore, many businesses will be expecting to recruit fresh graduates who are skilled in social media technologies. Hence, it is predicted that educators will use Twitter in their teaching and learning to enable learners to interact with each other and to encourage learners' engagement (Wankel, 2009).

Education nowadays engages more thoughtfully and promotes learning inside and outside the classroom. Many educators in higher education have started to utilize Twitter, hoping that students will seize the opportunity to interact more frequently (Grosseck & Holotescu, 2015; Junco et al., 2011; Perez, 2009;



**Figure 1.** Searching and filtering method (Source: Authors)

Schroeder et al., 2010). Twitter, as a free Web 2.0 application, can be a powerful collaboration tool for higher education (Corbeil & Corbeil, 2011; Rheingold, 2010). Rheingold (2010) found that it was more likely that Twitter would become a powerful tool for interaction in education.

## **Research Questions**

With this recent growth of social media usage in the field of education, there is a strong need to investigate the relationship between the use of Twitter and students' engagement and grades in the literature. Hence, this study critically analyzed ten prior studies to answer the following research questions:

- 1. Does Twitter encourage student engagement?
- 2. Does Twitter help in promoting good grades?

## **METHODOLOGY**

A review on the literature was carried out to determine the influence of Twitter on student engagement and grades in their academic performance. This review was focused on Twitter rather than other social media platforms. Wherefore, the studies were collected by searching scholarly databases in educational technology and computer sciences. The University of Technology Malaysia academic database system (UTM ADS) and Google Scholar search engine were used to find research articles. Even though we identified the majority of the relevant literature, our review is mainly centered on published articles as opposed to unpublished articles, conference proceedings papers, and not reporting directly on Twitter. Additional citations were gathered from the reference lists of each published article. Moreover, for each author of the published articles, ResearchGate and Google Scholar were used to find additional papers related to the topic that the author might have published. Finally, keywords or search terms such as "Twitter", "Microblogging", "Web 2.0", "social media", "student learning", "student engagement", "student grades", and "student collaboration" were inserted into UTM ADS and Google Scholar to find supplementary resources. From the keywords, 19 articles/papers had been found. The articles had been filtered using specific inclusion criteria. Figure 1 shows the process of searching and filtering the articles.

The inclusion criteria were that the studies should be published in English from 2011 to 2020. The researchers used the manual approach of content analysis in order to code these articles (such as using sticky notes, paper, and highlight pens). **Table 1** provides details of the studies that met these criteria.

## **RESULTS**

This paper aims to analyze the usage of Twitter and its effects on student engagement and grades from 2011 to 2020. **Table 2** illustrates the statistics data from the articles that were analyzed such as the research design of the study, sample size, and year of publication. The participants in the 10 research articles set out above mainly comprised students from either college or university in various fields of study. These participants may be categorized as undergraduates and postgraduate students between the ages of 17 and 41 years. However, two studies focused on secondary school students.

Table 1. A list of studies associated with students' achievement and engagement

No	Author	Title	Journal
1.	Eusebio & Eusebio (2020)	Grade 12 students' perceptions on using Twitter for vocabulary improvement	International Journal of Research Studies in Education
2.	Denker et al. (2018)	Twitter in classroom: Modeling online communication attitudes and student motivations to connect	Computers in Human Behavior
3.	Slocomb (2017)	To tweet or not to tweet: An analysis of the effect of Twitter on secondary student performance, engagement, and attitudes	North Dakota State University of Agriculture and Applied Science
4.	Hennessy et al. (2016)	Social media and anatomy education: using Twitter to enhance the student learning experience in anatomy	Anatomical Sciences Education
5.	Bista (2015)	Is Twitter an effective pedagogical tool in higher education? Perspectives of education graduate students	Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
6.	West et al. (2015)	Beyond tweet: Using Twitter to enhance engagement, learning, & success among first-year students	Journal of Marketing Education
7.	Junco et al. (2013)	Putting twitter to the test: Assessing outcomes for student collaboration, engagement and success	British Journal of Educational Technology
8.	Welch & Bonnan-White (2012)	Twittering to increase student engagement in the university classroom	Knowledge Management & E- Learning
9.	Junco et al.(2011)	The effect of Twitter on college student engagement and grades	Journal of Computer Assisted Learning
10.	Rinaldo et al. (2011)	Learning by tweeting: Using twitter as a pedagogical tool	Journal of Marketing Education

Table 2. Statistics from critical analysis regarding research design, sample size, & year of publication

Methodology	Number of studies
Research design	
Qualitative	1
Quantitative	3
Mixed method	2
Quasi-experimental	2
Experimental	2
Sample size	
Fewer than 100 participants	3
100-200 participants	3
201-300 participants	2
301-400 participants	0
401-500 participants	2
Year of publication	
2011	2
2012	1
2013	1
2015	2
2016	1
2017	1
2018	1
2020	1

In general, the results from the analysis of these studies pertaining to the usage of Twitter and its effects on student engagement and student grades indicated that Twitter can be a useful educational tool in helping students to learn (refer to **Table 3**).

According to the empirical findings summarized in **Table 3**, five common themes were identified from the previous studies. The overall conclusions are, as follows:

- 1. Twitter encourages students' engagement in learning with peers and the professional community and increases students' participation and classroom interactions.
- 2. Twitter improves students' motivation and attitudes toward learning.
- 3. Twitter improves students' performance.
- 4. Twitter fosters active collaboration and participation.
- 5. Twitter use can provide moral support to some undergraduate students.

Table 3. A critica	l analvsis c	of studies	examining stud	dents' achievement	& engagement

perceptions of alumni tudents in education lds on using Twitter as research platform in a mester-long course; to investigate alumni tudents in education lds' perceptions about Twitter as a tool of assroom engagement higher education; to tamine likelihood that tese alumni students in ducation fields would filize Twitter efficiently in following two years er accomplishment of tourse; & to find out ether alumni students in education fields recommend use of Twitter in future graduate classes examine relationship N/R Yes between students' iitudes towards online formunication & their motivation to communicate, pecifically related to student engagement through Twitter  To find grade 12  Yes N/I	of 34 years; 31 females & 7 males; they were registered in a compulsory course in their master of education programs with a variety of specializations, such as elementary education, English as a second language, & special education; Instruments: Mixed method; researcher developed a course Twitter page; 2,414 tweets were gathered from Twitter platform over a 15-week period; participants wrote reflection papers at end of semester; online questionnaire; Research design: Qualitative case study research	e useful tool to foster students' active; collaboration & participation. It helps by providing space & opportunities for students to engage in academic activities such as receiving immediate & frequent information, communicating with mentors, updating course assignments, & sharing useful information from textbooks with other students & mentors.  There is a relationship between online communication attitudes & student motivation to communicate	Twitter fosters active collaboration, participation and engagement in learning.  Twitter improves students' attitudes & motivation
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examine relationship N/R Yes between students' itudes towards online ommunication & their motivation to communicate, pecifically related to through Twitter  To find grade 12 Yes N/I	freshman, 26% sophomores, 6% juniors, & 4% seniors); Age: 18-22 years old (98%) & between 23-34 years (2%); Gender: 135 male & 348 female; Instruments: Online survey; & Research design:	online communication attitudes & student motivation to communicate with course teacher through Twitter, justifying Twitter integration in large lecture	improves students' attitudes &
between students' itudes towards online mmunication & their motivation to communicate, pecifically related to itudent engagement through Twitter  To find grade 12  Yes N/I	freshman, 26% sophomores, 6% juniors, & 4% seniors); Age: 18-22 years old (98%) & between 23-34 years (2%); Gender: 135 male & 348 female; Instruments: Online survey; & Research design:	online communication attitudes & student motivation to communicate with course teacher through Twitter, justifying Twitter integration in large lecture	improves students' attitudes &
itudes towards online ommunication & their motivation to communicate, pecifically related to tudent engagement through Twitter  To find grade 12 Yes N/I	juniors, & 4% seniors); Age: 18-22 years old (98%) & between 23-34 years (2%); Gender: 135 male & 348 female; Instruments: Online survey; & Research design:	student motivation to communicate with course teacher through Twitter, justifying Twitter integration in large lecture	students' attitudes &
ommunication & their motivation to communicate, pecifically related to itudent engagement through Twitter To find grade 12 Yes N/I	years old (98%) & between 23-34 years (2%); Gender: 135 male & 348 female; Instruments: Online survey; & Research design:	with course teacher through Twitter, justifying Twitter integration in large lecture	attitudes &
motivation to communicate, pecifically related to tudent engagement through Twitter To find grade 12 Yes N/I	years (2%); Gender: 135 male & 348 female; Instruments: Online survey; & Research design:	Twitter, justifying Twitter integration in large lecture	
communicate, pecifically related to tudent engagement through Twitter To find grade 12 Yes N/I	348 female; Instruments: Online survey; & Research design:	integration in large lecture	motivation
pecifically related to tudent engagement through Twitter To find grade 12 Yes N/I	survey; & Research design:		
tudent engagement through Twitter To find grade 12 Yes N/I	,	Classi Oom.	
through Twitter To find grade 12 Yes N/I	Quantitative		
To find grade 12 Yes N/I			
_	R Participants: Purposive sampling	Twitter enhanced student's	Twitter
idents' perceptions of	grade 12 students were randomly		improves
vitter use as a tool for	chosen 70 participants (male=33,		students'
nproving vocabulary	female=37); Instruments:		performance
inproving vocabulary	Questionnaire; & Research	tweets, replies, retweets, hashtags,	in learning
	-		iii icai iiiiig
	design. Quantitative research		
To find out whether No Yes	Participants: 197 hachelor of		Twitter
			improves
0 0	_		students'
			engagement
	_		& provides
•	-	•	moral support
•			to students.
	-		to stauchts.
•	Sarvey research & quantitative		
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		=	
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		S	
examination scores			
examination scores		was no association between	
examination scores		was no association between student final examination scores &	
examination scores		was no association between student final examination scores & their frequency of viewing of	
d h as n ar t h ur i u	o find out whether No Ye ical students engage an academic Twitter shtag to boost their learning of the ican academic to be in the ican academic to be in the ican academic to be ican acad	ical students engage an academic Twitter shtag to boost their learning of leuroanatomy; to nine which elements heir learning utilize lashtag feature in roanatomy course; & nvestigate whether dents' frequency of of hashtag feature fluences their final  medicine undergraduate students at the University of Southampton who registered on nervous & locomotor 2 anatomy course; Instruments: Validated written questionnaire; & Research design Survey research & quantitative authorized in the University of Southampton who registered on nervous & locomotor 2 anatomy course; Survey research & quantitative questionnaire; & Research design Survey research & quantitative fluences their final	articles can be useful for reading & writing.  Participants: 197 bachelor of medical students were using medicine undergraduate students at the University of Southampton who registered on nervous & locomotor 2 anatomy course; learning utilize ashtag feature in coanatomy course; envestigate whether dents' frequency of e of hashtag feature fluences their final kamination scores  Participants: 197 bachelor of medical students were using Twitter hashtags during their anatomy class, with 33% of these students viewing hashtags & making contributions while 58% observed. Besides educational purposes, students reported that Twitter usage provides a platform for them to increase morale and share worries & learning anxieties. Twitter helps them to engage in learning, communicate with their teachers, & create support networks amongst students.

Author	Objective	EG EE	Methodology	Discussion	Theme
Junco et		Yes Yes	Participants: 125 out of 132	There was a greater increase in	Twitter
al. (2011)	Twitter usage for		students from 7 sections took	engagement scores for EG than CG.	encourages
	educational purposes on		part in pre-test survey;	It can be concluded that using	students'
	student engagement & to		Instruments: National survey of	Twitter as an educational tool had a	engagement
	investigate effect of		student engagement; & Research	positive effect on student	
	Twitter usage for		design: Experimental design	engagement & analysis reveals that	
	educational purposes on			encouraging use of Twitter for	
	semester grades			educational purposes has a positive	
				effect on grades.	
Junco et	To investigate impact of	Yes Yes	Participants: 118 out of 132	Twitter group's engagement score	Twitter
al. (2013)	explicit encouragement		students on a first-year seminar	increased significantly more than	encourages
	of Twitter usage (through		course for a pre-health	CG over course of semester.	group
	course design) on		professional major took part in	However, difference cannot be	engagement
	relationship between		study; 65 students were in EG,	explained by differences in pre-	
	students' engagement &		while 53 were in CG; 92% were	existing engagement. Similarly,	
	grades; to find out		Caucasian, 5% Latino, & 3% Native	Twitter group showed higher	
	discrepancies in		American; 62% were female; Age	overall semester GPAs than CG.	
	collaboration between a		of participants ranged between	Again, difference cannot be	
	class that needs Twitter		17 & 20 years; Instruments:	explained by pre-existing academic	
	usage & one that does		National survey of student	ability. Results stressed importance	
	not; & to determine		engagement; Twitter & Ning;	of how instructors use Twitter to	
	effective elements of		students' academic records; &	encourage students' engagement &	
	integrating Twitter into		Research design: Experimental	achievement, as seen in study 1.	
	college courses		design	Results also highlighted 3 effective	
			5 - 5	elements of integrating Twitter into	
				college courses: 1. Twitter is a	
				requirement when designing a	
				course to ensure that students	
				experience benefits to their	
				engagement & academic	
				achievements. 2. A theoretical	
				framework should be used as a	
				guide to integrate Twitter into	
				course. 3. Faculty engagement on	
				platform is essential in promoting	
				student engagement & academic	
				success.	
Rinaldo et	To investigate whether	N/R Vas	Participants: 113 students (64	Qualitative & quantitative data	Twitter
	professors use Twitter to	14/11/103		show that Twitter can be a powerful	improves
ui. (2011)	engage students in			& useful pedagogical tool in any	students'
	conversations about a			classroom when students believe it	motivation.
				is relevant to them & are properly	motivation.
	marketing course			motivated to use it. Twitter provides	
			222; Instruments: Survey; open-	many advantages for marketing	
			ended questions; Research	instructors who choose to include	
			design: Both quantitative &		
			qualitative data	students in experiential learning. Twitter is a fast, easy method for	
			qualitative data		
				making announcements, solving	
				student issues, & performing	
				course-related administrative	
				duties. Students are more prepared	
				for future careers as they interact	
				on Twitter with their lecturer.	
Slocomb		No Yes	·	Results revealed that is a significant	Twitter
(2017)			enrolled in advanced sociology	increase in student engagement &	improves
			courses in two suburban	grades when using Twitter instead	students'
			midwestern secondary schools	of online discussion boards. It could	engagement
			within same district & taught by	be noted that Twitter is a viable	&
			within suffic district a taught by	De moteu emac i Mitter ib a mabie	
			same instructor; in 2014, there	alternative to enhance learning.	performance
					performance
			same instructor; in 2014, there	alternative to enhance learning.	performance
			same instructor; in 2014, there were 57 students; in 2015, there were 41 students; Instruments:	alternative to enhance learning. More posts can be seen when students use Twitter (as in 2015) as	performance
			same instructor; in 2014, there were 57 students; in 2015, there were 41 students; Instruments: Paper/pencil instrument	alternative to enhance learning. More posts can be seen when students use Twitter (as in 2015) as a learning tool compared to online	performance
			same instructor; in 2014, there were 57 students; in 2015, there were 41 students; Instruments: Paper/pencil instrument (questionnaire & open-ended	alternative to enhance learning. More posts can be seen when students use Twitter (as in 2015) as a learning tool compared to online discussion boards (as in 2014). This	performance
			same instructor; in 2014, there were 57 students; in 2015, there were 41 students; Instruments: Paper/pencil instrument	alternative to enhance learning. More posts can be seen when students use Twitter (as in 2015) as a learning tool compared to online	performance

Table 3 (Continued). A critical analysis of studies examining students' achievement & engagement

Author	Objective	EG E	E Methodology	Discussion	Theme
Welch &	To investigate whether	N/R N		Results revealed no significant	Twitter
Bonnan-	using Twitter in large-		first-year sociology course took	effect of Twitter in student	encourages
White	lecture format university		part in study; Instruments:	engagement in both CG & EG.	students'
(2012)	courses produces a		Paper/pencil instrument	However, there was a significant	engagement
	difference in levels of		(questionnaire & open-ended	effect of Twitter enjoyment on	
	self-reported student		questions); & Research design:	student engagement, with those	
	engagement		A quasi-experimental design	saying they enjoyed Twitter being	
				significantly more engaged than	
				those who did not.	
West et al.	To examine first-year	Yes Ye	es Participants: 411 undergraduate	Findings suggest that students'	Twitter
(2015)	students' previous		students from Urban Canadian	baseline skill levels do not	encourages
	experience with using		University participated in study;	influence level of Twitter	students'
	Twitter; to find out how		231 students were from a first-	engagement. Likewise, levels of	engagement
	obligatory integration of		year marketing class & 180 were	baseline Twitter skills do not	with peers &
	Twitter for classroom		from a first-year fashion class;	significantly influence students'	with
	teaching purposes		participants' age ranged from 17	performance on their Twitter	professional
	affects students'		to 41 years; Instruments: Online	assessment or final grades.	community &
	assessments of their		questionnaire; students'	ANOVA findings show that basic	enhances
	learning; to find out		reflective papers; & Research	Twitter literacy amongst female	interactions
	extent of students'		•	students affects them positively in	
	fundamental skills while		method research	communicating with peers,	
	using Twitter on their interaction level; to			improves their overall professional community & increases their	
	investigate whether			overall classroom experiences.	
	students' engagement			Apart from that, students reported	
	level when using Twitter			having positive perceptions of the	
	influences course			impact of Twitter usage. This	
	outcome; & to			signals that both students and	
	investigate students'			faculty can find Twitter to be a	
	perceptions on tweeting			useful social presence catalyst.	
	during lectures as a			and the control of th	
	learning tool.				

Note. N/R: Not related; EG: Experimental group; CG: Control group; EG: Effects on grade; & EE: Effects on engagement

## **DISCUSSION**

Teachers employ Twitter to motivate students' interest in learning and to facilitate student group work, while students gain many benefits when using Twitter in learning, such as support for collaboration and feedback on their thoughts (Denker et al., 2018; Eusebio & Eusebio, 2020). According to the findings summarized in **Table 3**, Twitter encourages students' engagement in learning with peers and the professional community and enhances their interactions (West et al., 2015). It helps them to engage in learning, communicate with their teachers, and create support networks amongst themselves (Hennessy et al., 2016). Junco et al. (2011, 2013), and Welch and Bonnan-White (2012) concluded that Twitter encourages students' and groups' engagement when used as an educational tool. Slocomb (2017) found that Twitter can enhance students' learning and improve their engagement and performance, while Bista's (2015) study showed that Twitter fosters active collaboration, participation and engagement in learning.

Denker et al. (2018) found a relationship between online communication attitudes and students' motivation to communicate with the course instructor via Twitter, justifying Twitter's integration in the context of large lecture classrooms. Rinaldo et al. (2011) also noted that Twitter improves students' motivation. Eusebio and Eusebio (2020) found that Twitter improves performance in learning English among grade 12 students. Moreover, the finding of Slocomb's (2017) study showed that Twitter improved students' academic performance in a high school advanced sociology course as measured by the end-of-semester score. In contrast, baseline Twitter skill levels did not significantly affect students' performance on a Twitter evaluation (West et al., 2015). The researchers argued that increased student engagement is positively associated with student achievement of grades, although this effect varies in magnitude across different student populations. The findings from this meta-analysis showed that eight studies demonstrated that Twitter helps students to engage in the learning process (Bista, 2015; Denker et al., 2018; Hennessy et al., 2016; Junco et al., 2011, 2013; Rinaldo et al., 2011; Slocomb, 2017; West et al., 2015). Meanwhile, two studies mentioned that Twitter does

encourage learners to engage in learning actively, but it does not appear to improve students' achievement (Hennessy et al., 2016; Slocomb, 2017). In contrast, one study revealed no significant effect of Twitter use on student engagement in either the control or the experimental group (Welch & Bonnan-White, 2012). Meanwhile, one study did not discuss whether Twitter affects students' engagement or not but focused instead on the achievement of students' grades through Twitter (Eusebio & Eusebio, 2020).

The findings suggest that students generally have a positive experience in using Twitter in the teaching and learning process (Bista, 2015). Additionally, one study mentioned that Twitter provides a platform for students to increase their moral support and share their worries to reduce anxiety while engaging in learning (Hennessy et al., 2016), and it also promotes social interaction with peers (West et al., 2015). Participants could feel a greater sense of connection not only amongst themselves but also with members of faculty and the professional community (West et al., 2015). Based on the meta-analysis in **Table 3**, the findings from four previous studies indicated that Twitter has a positive impact on student's grades (Eusebio & Eusebio, 2020; Junco et al., 2011, 2013; West et al., 2015). Twitter enhanced grade 12 students' English vocabulary skills (Eusebio & Eusebio, 2020). Junco et al. (2013) reported that the Twitter group in their study showed higher overall semester GPAs than the non-Twitter Group in a first-year seminar course for pre-health professional majors. Moreover, an earlier study, also conducted by Junco et al. (2011), showed that the use of Twitter for educational purposes has a positive effect on grades. West et al. (2015) argued that the number of tweets was positively and significantly linked to male participants' final marks, but while a positive relationship also appeared for their female counterparts, it was not significant.

In contrast, two studies concluded that Twitter did not affect students' grades (Hennessy et al., 2016; Slocomb, 2017). In Slocomb's (2017) study, the mean grades stayed the same in an upper-level high school Sociology course, with no significant differences in mean student grades being found between the control and experimental groups. Hennessy et al. (2016) found no association between students' exam results and their frequency of viewing hashtag (#nlm2soton) that was created by the teaching fellows. Four studies did not discuss whether social media affect students' grades but focused instead on students' engagement through Twitter (Bista, 2015; Denker et al., 2018; Rinaldo et al., 2011; Welch & Bonnan-White, 2012). Thus, in the investigations reviewed above, the researchers found that Twitter has more influence on student engagement than on grades. That might be because Twitter has too many distractions when students spend time on it. Moreover, some students might feel uncomfortable when facing Twitter's character limit, and they not being able to express full thoughts due to the character count restrictions (Bista, 2015; Slocomb, 2017). Having said that, a proper use of Twitter in teaching and learning will make it as one of valuable tools for students. Twitter might have positive influence on grades due to the opportunities for students to interact with others such as peers and experts, collaborate on projects, and stay informed about relevant news and events in their field of study.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Students can use Twitter as a learning tool to share their ideas and resources and to communicate with peers. For example, Twitter can facilitate collaboration among students working on group projects, allowing them to share information and coordinate their efforts more effectively. Additionally, students can use Twitter to connect with experts and practitioners in their field of study, giving them access to a wider range of perspectives and resources. However, a review of the metadata reveals that Twitter has a greater effect on students' engagement than on their grades. While Twitter can be a valuable tool for promoting student engagement, its impact on academic performance is less clear. In fact, some studies suggest that social media use, including Twitter, can have a negative impact on students' grades, as it can be a source of distraction and reduce the amount of time students spend on their studies. One challenge in assessing the impact of Twitter on student learning is the wide range of contexts, sample sizes, and time periods across studies. This variability makes it difficult to compare and synthesize results, and to draw definitive conclusions about the relationship between Twitter use and student learning outcomes. Therefore, future study is required to validate the existing research findings and to explore the potential benefits and drawbacks of using Twitter as a learning tool in different educational contexts. The study could help educators and students make more informed decisions about how to use Twitter effectively to enhance learning and promote student success.

# **Limitations and Suggested Future Research**

This study is only focused on a critical analysis of 10 articles on the use of Twitter in education. Therefore, the findings cannot be generalized to other research contexts. However, these research findings are valuable for educators and researchers who would like to explore further the use of Twitter in teaching and learning. Based on the findings, more research should be conducted on the use of Twitter as a learning tool that can influence grades, with a focus on incorporating instructional design elements. Although Twitter appears to have a greater effect on student engagement than on grades, there is a need for further research on how Twitter can enhance student engagement. Moreover, one area that requires further in-depth research is the extent to which Twitter promotes students' expression of their thoughts and ideas. In the near future, a proper learning framework should be formulated to guide the effective use of Twitter as a learning tool. Finally, the researchers suggest that future studies evaluate the impact of other social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, on student engagement and grades.

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Data availability: Data generated or analyzed during this study are available from the authors on request.

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