#A2JTM2020

OJEN's Access to Justice Week Twitter Moot

Committee Guide

What is a Twitter Moot?

The OJEN Twitter Moot is an online debate. Students from across Ontario participate in the discussion by tweeting their opinions either individually or in teams/classes. The OJEN committee in Hamilton came up with this fun and engaging justice education initiative for Hamilton-area schools a few years ago. This fall, for the first time, OJEN will run the program for high school students throughout Ontario.

The Twitter Moot offers students a great opportunity to learn about an important and contentious legal issue. This year, the OJEN Twitter Moot will take place during Ontario's Access to Justice Week. On **October 28th, from 9 am to 5 pm**, Ontario students will debate:

Should we allow peremptory challenges in criminal jury trials?

To learn more about this exciting initiative, please visit the Twitter Moot program page on the OJEN website. The Teacher's Guide provides more information on the program and the backgrounder on peremptory challenges orients students to this year's Twitter Moot topic.

How can OJEN committees participate?

Local committees can support the program by **promoting and engaging with tweets** from students in their region. To do this, committees will need to use or create their own Twitter account, and OJEN's communication team can help with this. Just send us an email at regions@ojen.ca.

We ask that all committee's use the following formula when creating a new Twitter account: **@OJEN_*committee name***.

For example, the Kingston committee's Twitter handle would be @OJEN_Kingston

If you are new to Twitter, we have created a Twitter Basics participant handout for people participating in the Twitter Moot.

Teachers must register their students for participation in the Twitter Moot and provide us with all Twitter handles that their students will be using. OJEN staff will only retweet and recognize twitter handles that are provided to us by a teacher. On the day of the Twitter Moot, in addition to retweeting some of the best arguments and exchanges, OJEN staff will direct tweets from students to their local committee.

Committees are not obliged to participate in this province-wide Twitter Moot, but should you choose to do so, we recommend designating a committee member who will monitor the committee's twitter account on the day of the moot. You can also follow the Twitter Moot hashtag **#A2JTM2020** throughout the day and interact with any of the students tweeting in the debate, by liking, replying and retweeting students' arguments.

Sample tweet

Peremptory challenges can be used to counter unconscious bias amongst prospective jurors #A2JTM2020 @OJEN_ROEJ

#A2JTM2020 identifies that this tweet is part of the Twitter Moot
Mentioning @OJEN_ROEJ allows OJEN staff to retweet and forward tweets to local committees

If this tweet came from a contributor in the Halton region, OJEN would retweet it and mention the Halton OJEN Committee by adding its twitter handle (@OJEN_Halton). This tweet from a Halton student would then show up in the feed of the Halton committee's Twitter account.

On **October 30th**, OJEN will select two winners, one based on the most persuasive tweet and the other based on overall contribution.

Important Twitter Moot Dates	
October 1st	Twitter Moot resources are published on the OJEN website Registration opens
October 23rd	Registration closes
October 26th	Access to Justice Week begins Deadline to submit Twitter handles of participating students to OJEN
October 28th	Twitter Moot takes place from 9 am - 5 pm
October 30th	OJEN announces winners of the Twitter Moot

Additional engagement options for committees

Since this is the first time we've offered the Twitter Moot, we wanted to keep committee engagement simple and straightforward. If your committee wishes to be involved more extensively, please consider the following:

- Help us recruit legal volunteers to provide "virtual coaching" to participants by discussing the issues around peremptory challenges. Depending on teacher interest, we may need to set up virtual guest speaking engagements in high school law classes, or connect teachers with lawyers who can answer students' questions about the use of peremptory challenges. Whenever possible, we would prefer to connect teachers to lawyers in their local community.

- Encourage local stakeholders, like law firms and community organizations, to follow and provide encouragement to participants via their own Twitter accounts

- Consider running your own local version of the Twitter Moot this spring. Historically, the Hamilton committee runs their Twitter Moot for Law Day in April. Check out the provincial Twitter Moot this fall and let us know whether your committee is interested in running its own Twitter Moot in the spring. We will work on creating a more comprehensive Twitter Moot guide for committees this winter, so that committees are able to run their own version of this program locally this spring.

Further Information

We are looking forward to a lively and fun Twitter Moot! For any questions or clarification about committee participation in this program, please contact regions@ojen.ca.