I thought that this chapter was a rather strange place to discuss Twitter in. I did not feel as though this chapter actually had a whole lot to do with Twitter in a very direct manner at all. Indirectly, I supposed that it could relate to some of the ideas presented in the chapter about learner control. The use of Twitter in education definitely allows for learner control. When using Twitter in, or as, a classroom, students are able to respond when they have something to say and how they want to respond. Instead of being called on or having to post or write something at a specific time, students are allowed to respond when they feel compelled to. This will equate for much more meaningful responses from students.

The environment that the use of Twitter can create also allows for a lot of student control simply because of the way that Twitter makes them feel safe. Students who are normally afraid to respond or afraid to ask questions or participate can feel much safer and are much more likely to participate when they do not have to have that face-to-face interaction in a classroom. Students can respond through technology and feel a much greater sense of control over their learning.

The down side to this is that the teacher/professor does not have as much control. The teacher can begin conversations and start lessons, but students are able to not pay attention, to be multitasking, and to be only half paying attention. While the students have more control over every aspect of Twitter learning, the teacher has very little control. The students can be wherever they want and give it as much attention as they want/don’t want.

Twitter can be used both by me personally and as an educational tool. The obvious personal uses for Twitter are social networking. The site can be used to update people on things I am doing or thinking etc. I can give random updates or pieces of information out very quickly to everyone who is “following me” or viewing my posts. I can also use the site to keep tabs on my friends and family and coworkers and see what is going on with them. It’s an easy to get all the latest updates quickly and easily.

As an educational tool, its uses vary. Twitter is great for conferences or seminars that people attend and can immediately post tweets from their cell phones on what is being taught there etc. Information can travel very quickly this way and important information is much less likely to get left out this way. People can hear about and learn about multiple things quickly and easily.

Another way that Twitter can be used as an educational tool is the way that we are going to use it in this grad class. We are actually going to have a class through Twitter at some point and communicate using it. We can use mobile phones or Internet to send tweets back and forth and have a near instant chat. Teachers can use Twitter to have students post tweets when they are on field trips or in other places or across seas in order to get updates or responses to grade. Twitter has many uses, some of which I don’t think have even been invented yet! I do not have a lot of experience with Twitter and look forward to learning more about it and its educational uses in this class.