Students on Twitter use "humanities" to talk about daily academic and campus activity.
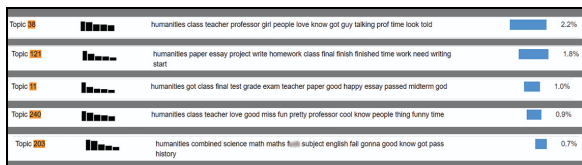
In our C-28.250 topic model of Collection 28, containing 1,589,462 individual tweets mentioning humanities (omitting authors with only one tweet; see M-X), there are many topics related to student daily life. We identified a set of topics in PyLDAvis that are characterized by common overlapping terms such as: "class," "homework," "essay," "teacher," "fail" or "pass," and other terms related to the daily life of students on campus. This suggests that when students use the word "humanities" on Twitter, they often do so to chronicle everyday moments on campus, such as attending a humanities class, taking an exam, or noting an event in the humanities building at school.

Because this collection consists of Tweets using the term "humanities,'' we can understand that when students encounter the word it is often in an institutional context related to college courses and campus surroundings. The prominent presence of student tweets in these sets leads us to believe that students are more likely in social media to connect the term "humanities" with their daily campus life and academic tasks, and less likely to connect it with humanities concepts *per se*.

Topics 38, 121, 11, 240, and 203 make up a majority of the student academic life topic set (see KF 6-2) in the model.

The tweets in this set tend to be characterized by observations or complaints about classes, as well as conversations about grades, social interactions and level of interest in their classes. Furthermore, the topics we identified as "student daily academic life" also contain most of the incidents of profanity in our Twitter corpus, often within topics that discuss classes or exams (161, 203, 171). In contrast to the published news discourse studied by WE1S, our Twitter corpus thus reflects the more informal discourse associated with student-to-student direct interactions. We believe that the prominence of profanity within these topics should not be stopworded out or written off as meaningless. Rather, these expressions are a rich and intrinsic part of Twitter student discourse.

C-28.250 Topics viewed in DFR browser.

Document collection studied: Collection 28, Tweets containing keyword 'humanities,' c. 2014-2019

Topic model of this collection: 250 Topics
20190717_1646_tweets-by-author---topics250

Interesting sample topics in the model: Topics 38, 121, 11, 240, 203, 161, 173,171

Evidentiary documentation: here