



SEARCHLIGHTS AND SUNGLASSES

LEARNING LAYER

iPhone apps for journalists

Is a smart phone the only tool a journalist in the field needs today? The Poynter Institute has compiled a list of some of the most [helpful iPhone apps for journalists](#). Divide the class into groups, with each picking an app, trying it and reporting their results.

They include:

- [Dropbox](#): an app that allows you to store and share files and documents in the cloud. Like having a big thumb-drive you can access any time.
- [Tweetie](#): an app that allows you to follow what's trending on Twitter. It also can sort tweets geographically so you can track local action (among the 10 percent of Tweets that are geo-tagged). It automatically shrinks URLs when you want to tweet a link.
- [TweetDeck](#): allows you to manage multiple accounts, arrange and display your Twitter feed into separate strands, bundling tweets from friends, tweets from elected officials, tweets that mention you, etc.
- [AP Mobile](#): the push notifications can satisfy general news addicts.
- [Instapaper](#): allows you to save articles and blogs to read later — even if you are offline.

Assignment for students: Are these apps useful? Do you know better ones? Come up with a better list and add it to the Poynter Institute post.

Assignment for teachers: Review the ideas developed by the [Teaching News Terrifically](#) contest in [2012](#) and [2013](#) as well as this blog post on [20 tools and apps](#). Try a few of the TNT lesson ideas. Can they be applied to the newer tools?

Class discussion: Would you use [Google Glass](#)? In Chapter One of this book, the author predicts wearable media will be a next-generation news trend. See this National Public Radio reporter of a [documentary filmmaker who captured video of a crime using the camera in his Google glasses](#). He says they will “revolutionize” citizen journalism. Do you agree? [Is privacy an issue?](#)