

**Appendix X**  
**Michael Petrilli's Journalist Compliments on Twitter, July 2020 to November 2021**

This appendix accompanies a few chapters in the forthcoming book, *The Malfunction of U.S. Education Policy: Elite Misinformation, Disinformation, and Selfishness*.

The over 100 comments below come from just one fifteen-month period (July 16, 2020, to November 5, 2021) on a single communication platform, Twitter. Extrapolate from these fifteen months to two decades, and the saturation count exceeds a thousand, for Twitter alone.

One assumes that Michael Petrilli communicates with journalists via other channels, too, such as telephone, in meetings, face-to-face, and other social media platforms. For those who wonder how Petrilli, who lacks relevant scholarly training or work experience, has become education journalists' most popular source on education research and policy, here's a hint: being a constant, unrelenting, and ingratiating presence in journalists' lives *is his job*. He endeavors to keep them focused—looking where he wants them to look.

These below are just *some* of the complimentary tweets from this 15-month period. (I found the information suppression implicit to many of these tweets depressing and quit about halfway through.) Moreover, there were many other tweets that simply made others aware of a journalist's work, which itself might be considered a compliment by a journalist, or made suggestions for stories to journalists, suggestions that included consulting people and resources in his cartel.

Here are some lower-bound numbers of Twitter interactions (those exceeding 25) Petrilli had with journalists just in the July 2020 to November 2021 period:

Journalist	Media outlet	Number of Twitter interactions
Erica L. Green	<i>New York Times</i>	183
Laura Meckler	<i>Washington Post</i>	173
Andrew Ujifusa	<i>Education Week</i>	168
Alexander Russo	<i>Phi Delta Kappan</i>	164
"Politics K12"	<i>Education Week</i>	143
Evie Blad	Education Week	125
Joanne Lee Jacobs	freelance	122
Erin Richards	<i>USA Today</i>	98
Dana Goldstein	<i>New York Times</i>	87
Karen Vaites	freelance	81
Michael B. Horn	<i>Education Next</i>	76
Lauren Camera	U.S. News & World Report	63

Erik Robelen	<i>Education Week, EWA</i>	61
Peter Greene	freelance	57
Stephen Sawchuck	<i>Education Week</i>	47
Collin Binkley	Associated Press	45
JonahDispatch	<i>The Dispatch, LA Times</i>	36
J. V. Last	The Bulwark	36
Sarah D. Sparks	<i>Education Week</i>	36
Richard Whitmire	<i>The 74</i>	35
Adam Tyner	freelance	34
Emily Hanford	American Public Media	28
"Chalkbeat"	<i>Chalkbeat</i>	26
Greg Toppo	<i>USA Today</i>	26
"Education Week"	<i>Education Week</i>	25
Eleanorbarkhorn	<i>New York Times, Vox</i>	24
"ExcelinEd"	ExcelinEd	24
Madeline Will	<i>Education Week</i>	24
Eliza Shapiro	New York Times	23
Ross Douthat	<i>New York Times</i>	23

Rarely, Petrilli suggests research from outside his citation cartel, for example, research from the world of psychology. But, even then, he restricts his suggestions to the few psychologists above the "celebrity threshold."

Michael Petrilli is hardly the only citation cartel member constantly selling to the media, but he may be the most prolific. His is behavior made possible by millions of dollars a year from wealthy foundations.

#### Tweet texts

An **excellent** article by @Stephen\_Sawchuk @educationweek on a tragic, if totally predictable trend

Today's **must-read**: @educationweek's @madeline\_will asks, "Has the Public Turned on Teachers?"

And another **great** ed-election preview, this time from @EvieBlad @educationweek @PoliticsK12

Today's **must read**, via @amandaripley

A **great take** from @cgewertz @educationweek Does Social Studies Build Stronger Readers?

This is **excellent**. Via @Stephen\_Sawchuk @educationweek and with great advice from @researchED\_US folks @dylanwiliam @erickalenze among others.

An **excellent** study by @natmalkus @AEducation and a great write-up by @cgewertz @educationweek

**Excellent** overview of the new Fordham study, via @educationweek's @SarahDSparks

A **great** write-up of Fordham's new study with @SethGershenson, by @madeline\_will at @educationweek.

@AndrewUjifusa @PoliticsK12 @educationweek **Good stuff** Andrew. What does the House propose for charter schools?

<https://t.co/9IY5iHxszm> @educationweek @s\_e\_schwartz @EWAEmily @alexanderrusso @Stephen\_Sawchuk @madeline\_will

**TODAY'S MUST READ**

So @educationweek's @SarahDSparks turned in a **characteristically strong article** about the research on ability groups,

**Great** @educationweek overview here: @SarahDSparks @PoliticsK12 @EricaLG @m\_education\_ap @ByMoriah @laurenonthehill @khefling @mkeierleber @douglasnharris @MHackman

**Good stuff** from @educationweek - What Should (and Shouldn't) Personalized Learning Look Like? @michaelhorn @ChristensenInst @thinkschools @scottb\_edu  
GOOD QUESTION, from @matt\_barnum

**Nuanced, important** article from @educationweek's @StateEdWatch on the politics behind state #ESSA plans @PoliticsK12

@TeacherBeat @PoliticsK12 **Really love** this juxtaposition of @educationweek blog posts!  
@AndrewUjifusa @thegrade\_

**Important** article from @EvieBlad at @educationweek about the Office for Civil Rights  
@rickhess99 @maxeden99 @smarick

Alyson Klein of @PoliticsK12 **fame** gets not 1 but 2 #Gladfly2016 mentions @educationweek @gined @ewrobelen

Today's **best headline**, via @StateEdWatch's @AndrewUjifusa @educationweek @PoliticsK12 @Stephen\_Sawchuk

@EarlyYearsEW @educationweek **Great stuff** though lots has happened since then!

**SWEET!** Check out this @educationweek infographic about "What Parents Want," built from a Fordham report

**AMEN** FOR @educationweek - A remarkable overview of the coming #ESEA debate from @PoliticsK12's Alyson Klein -

**MUST READ:** @cgewertz of @educationweek gets inside @dcpublicschools to see #CommonCore implementation in action.

**MUST READ:** @PoliticsK12's Michele McNeil takes the temperature on the current #edreform debate - cc @educationweek

A **fantastic** @educationweek write-up of new @NelsonSmith60 paper on TN's "recovery" school district. @district\_doss

**MUST READ:** International Tests Spark Questions on Finland's Standing - by @ewrobelen in @educationweek

Read this **great** @educationweek overview of our new #sped report from ace reporter @NirviShah -

**Great** @educationweek package on @StudentsFirstHQ @DFER\_News @Stand4Children but why no mention of @FiftyCAN or @PIEnetwork ?

**MAJOR** @educationweek package on the new #edreform advocacy groups - @TeacherBeat

**Nice** @educationweek piece by Ted Kolderie on pursuing innovation and incremental change simultaneously:

**Great** overview of #ESEA action by Alyson Klein of @EducationWeek.

RT @JoanneSWeiss: **Good summary** from @Chalkbeat of new study from @educationgadfly: building knowledge improves reading comprehension--in this case, learning more social studies helps produce better readers.

**Kudos** to @Chalkbeat @patrick\_wall for covering #charterschools - more please, and private/Catholic schools too!

**Good analysis** from @matt\_barnum & @kalynbelsha @Chalkbeat

**SUPER IMPORTANT** investigative piece by @Chalkbeat's @dylanpmccoy on high schools that push failing kids into "homeschooling" to inflate their graduation rates.

**Compelling stuff** from @matt\_barnum Maine went all in on 'proficiency-based learning' — then rolled it back. What does that mean for the rest of the country? @Chalkbeat @elizwgreen @michaelhorn @John\_Bailey

**Excellent** from @MonicaDisare @ChalkbeatNY What should it take to graduate? Inside the growing divide over whether to require New York's vaunted Regents exams

**Well said** by @elizwgreen @Chalkbeat FYI @rickhess99 @smarick @RbnLake @ProfMartyWest

**Important issue, great article** <https://t.co/EHDnBra7vO> @Chalkbeat @RickKahlenberg @HalleyTCF @dmmcgriff @Ninacharters ht @alexanderrusso

@MoskowitzEva has been name-checked by at least 3, maybe 4 presidential candidates today. **Not bad** @AriannaProthero @ChalkbeatNY #EDsummit15

RT @chendrie: @MichaelPetrilli @Chalkbeat @elizwgreen @matt\_barnum @annschimke I'd add that @annschimke has a **strong record of producing classroom-focused stories** on reading instruction, including a series of stories last year that were supported by an EWA Reporting Fellowship. This latest @ChalkbeatCO story builds on that foundation.

**Must-read** from @karennussle: Conservatives: Let's focus on winning policy, not just winning politics

2 **must-reads** today: Mask Mandates, Critical Race Theory Heat Up School-Board Elections, via @dougbelkin @WSJ

Today's **must-read**: @arotherham's smart take on @DanaGoldstein's smart take on @rweingarten & re-opening.

A **must-read** from @nytimes columnist @DouthatNYT about the horrible impact of shuttered urban schools on poor kids of color.

A **must-read** Father's Day column from Maureen Dowd about her dad, who had a "long stretch as a police detective"—a job she never told her classmates about. She regrets that now. "I'm proud of you, Dad."

A **must-read** from @DavidAFrench, for conservatives and progressives alike. American Racism: We've Got So Very Far to Go

And this **excellent** CNN story is super helpful too

This @DonnaStGeorge article is **excellent**.

Read this **excellent** @DouthatNYT column from October to understand why traditional Republicans might have voted for the president.

This **excellent** piece by @annschimke is a great resource for parents who worry about how #k12 schools are teaching reading to their children.

An **excellent** article from @AndrewJTobias @ThePlainDealer

**Excellent** article, via @JeremyKelleyDDN @daytondailynews

This **excellent** @voxdotcom take on the show gives you a glimpse:

This is **EXCELLENT investigative reporting** from @beth\_hawkins @The74

**Excellent** from the @washingtonpost editorial board:

**Excellent analysis** from @travispillow @redefinEDonline here. Local context is key.

**Excellent** from @michaelbhorn Can Online Credit Recovery Recover?

**Excellent** from @ThePlainDealer See how closely Ohio school report card grades trend with district income

An **excellent** article about teaching and learning from @DanaGoldstein

**Excellent** from @jasonrileywsj Why Trump's Education Pick Scars Unions

**Excellent** @EWErickson in the @nytimes

**Excellent and important** from @citizenstewart - "What's So Hard About Telling Me How My Kid Is Doing in School?"

**Excellent** write-up of our #QualityAssessments report via @laurenonthehill @USNewsEducation

An **excellent** take on #Friedrichs from Steve Malanga at @CityJournal

@amandaripley Thanks Amanda. We tried to build on **your excellent article** on the issue:

**Excellent** @mzinshteyn piece in @TheAtlEducation: "What It Means to Give Pell Grants to High Schoolers"

**Excellent** from @MJGerson: Politicians must get bolder about treating America's urban problems

In the @weeklystandard, an **excellent review** of @AndrewCherlin's Labor's Love Lost on the working class's marriage gap

Excellent @alexanderrusso analysis of my column on the new journalism upstarts:

An **excellent performance** by @campbell\_brown on @StephenAtHome. Her case for ending LIFO is strongest.

@marvelousreal **Excellent** piece. Thanks for sending.

**Excellent** @teacherbeat overview of Fordham/West/Chingos pension paper

The **excellent** @SSIRReview article (on new teacher prep programs) by @jonathanschorr is no longer behind the pay wall:

**Excellent** piece from @nprnews - Chicago Strike Emblematic Of Union Struggle

Check out this **excellent** (and long) @HuffPostEdu story by @Joy\_Resmovits on 3 #NYC kids,

@cearmario 's **excellent** AP story raises questions about @arneduncan 's commitment to "flexibility."

David Brooks **was right** to recommend this **excellent** essay today: "Beyond the Welfare State" by Yuval Levin:

But I agree 100% with this **great** David French column

@JoanneLeeJacobs with a **great** overview:

Cheers to @kalybelsha for her **great** story on credit recovery

A **great** take by @NPRCoryTurner on Fordham's review of states' Civics & U.S. History standards,

**Great** take from @tamarjacoby on why emphasizing #CTE need not lower expectations, & potential value of charters taking this to heart.

**Great** article via @TheAtlantic Why British Kids Went Back to School, and American Kids Did Not

"A lot of good education story ideas here from @alexanderrusso ..."

"Smart analysis from @matt\_barnum showing the growing disconnect between 8th grade test scores & high school grad rates.

Today's **must read**, via @amandaripey We've created cartoonish narratives about people in the opposite party. They're not true.

@ACClarkNJ @stateaidguy @arotherham @The74 But I agree 100% with this **great** David French column The Threat From the Anti-Woke Right <https://t.co/7JMpYG4kUt>

@kevincarey1 @rpondiscio @arotherham @jaypgreene @maxeden99 @IanVRowe @RbnLake @thomas\_toch @AndrewUjifusa @JoshuaPStarr @Noellerson @vkoganpolisci @Dale\_Chu @ProfMartyWest @EchelonInsights PS Please read Brooks and Welch on all of this, Kevin. @JoanneLeeJacobs with a **great overview**: <https://t.co/3t5iw3Wv80>

**Must-read** @nytdavidbrooks column, and not just because of his shout-out for Fordham's State of State U.S. History and Civics Standards report (thought that was nice!) The Self-Isolation of the American Left <https://t.co/ENzkbYCpFq>

An **excellent** new analysis by @KSoltisAnderson @EchelonInsights for @PIEnetwork finds a TON of common ground on the issue of race and education--while also identifying the topics that remain polarizing. <https://t.co/ksxdHCg6f4> <https://t.co/dqi4MLrQi4>

@Stephen\_Sawchuk I'm **so glad** you're digging into this, Stephen. FYI: <https://t.co/llclqa0x4f>

And this **excellent** CNN story is super helpful too Here's what's in the Senate version of the Democrats' \$3.5 trillion spending plan <https://t.co/zxaKogPCQE>

**Yes yes yes yes yes!** Whitmire: Looking for Answers to the Current Male Education Crisis? Start With Elementary School <https://t.co/xtsOauMeah> @richardwhitmir @The74 @Edsall @kevincarey1 @DKThomp @monacharen @Doug\_Lemov <https://t.co/MYVRBQtKHu>

@CaitlynnPeetz14 Thanks for the **great** article Caitlynn and for not letting such a ridiculously flawed policy go unnoticed on a Friday evening before a long holiday! I can't understand why @MoCoDHHS @mcps are so determined to ignore the CDC's guidance.

Is it just me or is @Chalkbeat **consistently doing some of the best reporting** from inside the classroom? Kudos! First-graders in the reading red zone: How one Colorado school is tackling pandemic gaps <https://t.co/101xZ7w1Za> @elizwgreen @matt\_barnum @annschimke @chendrie <https://t.co/eZmWaDPXJC>

@AriannaProthero @educationweek **Thanks for covering it** Arianna!

@pepinosuave Pepino! **It's been way too long!** So what's the sinking ship in this metaphor? School boards? Public education?



@Stephen\_Sawchuk @gtoppo @madeline\_will @AndrewUjifusa @rpondiscio @rickhess99 @Dyrnwyn @RbnLake @arotherham @EricaLG @laurameckler @smartkidsbook @emrichards @NPRCoryTurner @drvickip @natwexler @ProfMartyWest @maxeden99 @ckschools Hi Stephen. It's **nice to hear from you**. Whatever the reason, **this is big news**, as lots of kids participated in the Geo Bee, and it was a rare opportunity to celebrate academic excellence and the acquisition of knowledge.

!!! @Stephen\_Sawchuk @madeline\_will @AndrewUjifusa @rpondiscio @rickhess99 @Dyrnwyn @RbnLake @arotherham @EricaLG @laurameckler @gtoppo @smartkidsbook @emrichards @NPRCoryTurner @drvickip @natwexler @ProfMartyWest @maxeden99 @ckschools <https://t.co/eooYy84R8T>

Cheers to @kalybelsha for **her great story** on credit recovery A surge in pandemic Fs raises old concerns about credit recovery. Here's how schools could make it better. <https://t.co/HlpCb1LuGf> @alexanderrusso @matt\_barnum

EdWeek reporter @Stephen\_Sawchuk **gets a big "cheers"** this week for **his excellent story** on how schools can address chronic absenteeism this fall <https://t.co/HlpCb1LuGf> @alexanderrusso @chendrie @Noellerson <https://t.co/mOUBeZDA48>

**Cheers go out** to @MargaretEdu this week for her **excellent** op-ed on how Texas teachers can use assessment results to get help to the kids who need it most. <https://t.co/HlpCb1LuGf> @CherylOldham @HollyKuzmich @klbwrites @Kress\_Sandy @StudentSuccess

**Lots of smart analysis** here about how to help America's high achieving low-income students fulfill their potential. @JonathanPlucker @ProfDavidDeming @ProfMartyWest @bwrighted @NAGCGIFTED @RobyChatterji @AryAmerikaner <https://t.co/o3yfJnl7gz>

@danielwinlander @TheAtlantic **Very true!**

If you haven't read George Packer's @TheAtlantic article on the "Four Americas" yet, **ya should**. <https://t.co/yVgpBRZsWJ> He defines them as: - Free America - Smart America - Real America; and - Just America

Today's **must read**, via @glukianoff The Empowering of the American Mind We need to fix K-12 education. These 10 principles are a path for reform.

Today's **must-read** New Pandemic Data Supports Acceleration Rather than Remediation to Make Up for COVID Learning Loss <https://t.co/00eWP6MeUA> @The74 @beth\_hawkins @DanWeisbergTNT @TNT @zearned <https://t.co/CBsttxzhLC>

**Well done**, @Stephen\_Sawchuk What Is Critical Race Theory, and Why Is It Under Attack? <https://t.co/2h1nKsqd39>

A **fantastic new resource** for educators: The Best of the Marshall Memo website:  
<https://t.co/2hWpO3kK1g> @Noellerson @JulieMikuta @HeatherHJ @JoanneSWeiss  
@EBFreitag @Doug\_Lemov @mpolikoff @DTWillingham @brianjpick @GenePinkard  
@MicheleCaracapp

**Must-read**, via @IDTerryRyan @BluumOrg Cancel culture versus parent choice  
<https://t.co/dlyPI2WSOP>

@matt\_barnum **Interesting**. Does it deal with differences in cost of living, and how that might have changed over time in different parts of the country?

@JoanneLeeJacobs @educationgadfly **Thanks for covering our model** recovery plan Joanne!

**Really smart insight** from @DLeonhardt here. FYI. @mattyglesias @RbnLake @ProfEmilyOster  
@DrLeanaWen @John\_Bailey @natmalkus @Dyrnwyn @rickhess99 @ProfMartyWest  
@karenavaites @UnionReport74 @rpondiscio @NealMcCluskey @Tommy\_USA  
<https://t.co/89777CIfRU>

This is **really good**. Via @drsuperville @educationweek Lessons From the Pandemic That Can Improve Leading and Teaching <https://t.co/4izkEkYzD> @John\_Bailey @RbnLake @tvanderark  
@jal\_mehta @citizenstewart @Eduflack @Stephen\_Sawchuk @Doug\_Lemov @DTWillingham  
@Noellerson

Sorry, not columnist...reporter. And **possibly a future Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter** at that!