Appendix 9* Michael Petrilli’s Compliments and Expertise

Part 1. Journalist Compliments on Twitter, pp. 1–14
Part 2. Areas of Expertise According to USA Today and the EWA, pp. 15–18


Part 1. Petrilli’s Journalist Compliments on Twitter, July 2020 to November 2021

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 by telephone, in meetings, face-to-face, and on other social media platforms. For those who wonder how Petrilli, who often 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.

The tweet texts 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 20) Petrilli had with journalists just in the July 2020 to November 2021 period:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journalist</th>
<th>Media outlet</th>
<th>Number of Twitter interactions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erica L. Green</td>
<td><em>New York Times</em></td>
<td>183</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Meckler</td>
<td><em>Washington Post</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Ujifusa</td>
<td><em>Education Week</em></td>
<td>168</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander Russo</td>
<td><em>Phi Delta Kappan</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>“Politics K12”</td>
<td><em>Education Week</em></td>
<td>143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evie Blad</td>
<td><em>Education Week</em></td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joanne Lee Jacobs</td>
<td>freelance</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Richards</td>
<td><em>USA Today</em></td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rarely, Petrilli suggests research from outside his citation cartel, for example, research from the worlds of psychology or program evaluation. But, even then, he restricts his suggestions to the few psychologists above the “celebrity threshold.”

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

Tweet texts (verbatim)

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 @AEIeducation 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 @kheflying @mkeierleber @douglasnharris @MHackman

**Good stuff** from @educationweek - What Should (and Shouldn't) Personalized Learning Look Like? @michaelbhorn @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 @michaelbhorn @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 @dougalbelkin @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 @dayondailynews

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 Scares 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 @SSIReview 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 @kalynbelsha 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 @amandaripley 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 @jayppgreene @maxeden99 @IanVRowe @RbnLake @thomas_toch @AndrewUijfusa @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/lIclqa0x4f

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/101xZ7w12a @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 @arothereham @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 @arothereham @EricaLG @laurameckler @gtoppo @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.

Cheers to @kalynbelsha 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/eooYy84R8T

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/HIpCb1LuGf @alexanderrusso @matt_barnum

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/HIpCb1LuGf @alexanderrusso @chendrie @noellerson https://t.co/mOUBeZDA48

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/o3yfJnI7gz

@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/0OeWP6MeUA @The74 @beth_hawkins @DanWeisbergTNTP @TNTP @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/2hWp03kK1g @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/dlyPl2WS0P

@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 @Drynwyn @rickhess99 @ProfMartyWest @karenvaites @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/4izkEkbyzD @John_Bailey @RbnLake @tvanderark @jal_mehta @citizenstewart @Eduflack @Stephen_Sawchuk @Doug_Lemov @DTWillingham @JoanneLeeJacobs

Sorry, not columnist...reporter. And **possibly a future Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter** at that!
Part 2. Michael Petrilli's Areas of Expertise, according to the EWA and USA Today*

Out of several dozen names of experts and alleged experts over the past decade, Michael Petrilli's is most frequently mentioned in the publication USA Today and at the website of the Education Writers Association. What are Petrilli's areas of expertise? What is his training and work experience? He has no specific relevant training, and no frontline experience in education. He worked for Checker Finn for many years at the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, then Institute, and then moved directly into a high-level position in the George W. Bush administration.

He does retain expertise derived from continuous communication with Fordham's extensive network, funded by many millions of dollars from wealthy foundations. He's in touch with "what's happening now" among a certain elite.

Petrilli has no particular training or experience in school finance, testing and measurement, collective bargaining, curriculum and instruction, behavior management medication, demographic trend analysis, civil rights law, career-technical education, child development, family structure analysis, political philosophy, federalism, ability grouping, homework, sequestration, budget analysis, social policy, or community development.

Yet, the Permanent Education Press anoints him expert on all these topics. They like him personally. It is easy to reach him quickly. And, even if EWA's readers do not like EWA's super-intimate relationship with the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, they cannot do anything about it. EWA is supported by millions of dollars from wealthy foundations and other organizations "paying to play." EWA controls who gets attention. And, for some, attention is everything.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>11/2/21</td>
<td>Richards, Wong, Schnell</td>
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1/26/16 Greg Toppo NAEP math, reading low scores in cities
10/28/15 Greg Toppo math scores drop first time in 25 years
2/9/15 Greg Toppo state takeovers of public schools, charters
10/14/14 Greg Toppo ADHD and stimulant use
3/18/14 Greg Toppo about homework
8/27/13 AP education waivers and at-risk students
2/21/13 Greg Toppo Duncan and sequestration, budget
11/5/12 Greg Toppo urban middle class and diversity

EWA Website

7/25/22 EWA national seminar The Push to Restrict Teaching on Controversial Topics
10/28/20 Emily Richmond What reporters need to know about the 'nation's report card'
7/3/18 Emily Richmond Trump Rescinds Obama-Era Policies on Affirmative Actio
6/6/18 Brian McVicar, Grand Rapids Press With States at the Wheel, What’s Next for School Accountability?
5/24/18 Nichole Dobo, Hechinger Report Why Race and Equity Matter in Education Reporting
6/27/17 Monica Disare, Chalkbeat Accountability and ESSA: Where States Are Headed
6/14/17 David Loewenberg Trump Agenda, Pre-K, Civil Rights Debated at Charter Convening
3/10/17 Emily Richmond Senate Unwinds School Accountability Rules
3/5/15 Emmanuel Felton, Hechinger Rethinking Accountability in the ESSA Era
4/15/16 Emily Richmond Study: Big Benefits to Career and Technical Education
4/13/15 Joy Resmovits, Huffington Post Holding Charter Schools Accountable
3/6/15 Emmanuel Felton, Hechinger Opponents of Common Core Open New Fronts in Battle
3/5/15 Emmanuel Felton, Hechinger Common Core Opponents Turn Up Heat on Testing Front

"worked at the U.S. ED under President George W. Bush"
"former education official in the George W. Bush administration"
"president of the pro-voucher Thomas B. Fordham Institute"
"a conservative-leaning think tank"
"conservative-leaning think tank that advocates for the standards"
"conservative-leaning think tank that advocates for the standards"
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<td>We Have a Parenting Problem, Not a Poverty Problem</td>
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Earlier Stories: CC tests, success or failure, "a Common Core proponent" gifted education study in Ohio state grading systems under NCLB federal "footprint" in education rock star superintendents how TN and DE won $600 million should LA super stay or go "no excuses" reformers LA super to resign how NYC chancellor is changing things state takeovers in MS Obama sells Race to the Top and early ed linking home and classroom in Oakland end of desegregation and ed reform revive academic tracking? lessons from NYS don't expect fast change under CC outdated Pell rules
EWA Best Blog Award
2012  First Prize
Michael J. Petrilli, *Flypaper*, a publication of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute
https://www.ewa.org/post/2012-winners-national-awards-education-reporting

2013  Second Prize
Common Core Watch
Jennifer Borgioli, Chester E. Finn, Jr., Kathleen Porter-Magee, and Jason Zimba
The Thomas B. Fordham Institute

EWA Continuing Coverage of an Issue Award
2013  Second Prize
Continuing Coverage of Common Core
Chester E. Finn, Jr., Michael J. Petrilli, Kathleen Porter-Magee, and Sol Stern
The Thomas B. Fordham Institute

*This is part of Appendix 9 of the book, *The Malfunction of US Education Policy: Elite Misinformation, Disinformation, & Selfishness*