

Canvas: Example of Online Discussion Guidelines and Rubrics

Why Online Discussions?

Discussion boards promote effective and targeted learning, provide an interactive medium to construct and share knowledge, and affords the student opportunity to formulate thought processes, reflect upon, and critically think about the content. Interactive discussion, whether online or in the classroom, support a deeper sense of self-awareness and awareness of others experiences and worldview.

Further reading:

- “[Discussions](#)”, Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence & Educational Innovation, Carnegie Mellon University
- Examples of Discussion Rubrics

Sample Student Guidelines for Online Discussion

- After reviewing the module content and assigned reading, review the content of the discussion (case study, webinar, documentary), and address the posed questions thoroughly.
- Respectful exchange of ideas and proper “netiquette” is expected.
- Your **initial post** must be submitted to the discussion board by **XXX** (*example, Thursday midnight*). You will not be able to see anyone else’s post until you have submitted your own.
- **Respond** to a minimum of two postings by **ZZZ** (*example, Sunday midnight*). Each post must be thoughtful, supported by evidence, and provide an alternative or confirming point of view. Note that the perspective you present does not have to be your personal viewpoint; you are stimulating an interactive discussion to enhance knowledge and understanding.
- All literature to support comments should be cited.
- You are encouraged to ask questions and/or contribute with shorter posts to enhance the discussion as long as you meet the minimum requirement of a substantial responsive posts by the two posting deadlines. Your extra posts could be used to aid in constructing knowledge or stimulate an alternative point of view.
- Grades are distributed based on both quality and timeliness of posts. A late first post hampers others from completing the activity and thus is heavily penalized. Refer to the rubric for specific grading criteria.

Example of a Grading Rubric for Online Discussions

Initial Post	Poor: 0	Fair: 1	Good: 3-4	Excellent: 5
Initial post addresses assignment requirements, is well formulated and evidence based, and posted by the deadline	Initial post is missing. Post does not address the discussion question.	Initial post was late. Post does not demonstrate familiarity or understanding of the topic. Post is not backed by cited evidence.	Post made on time. Moderate development or quantitative content in post. Post is missing evidence-based literature citations.	Post made one time. Well-developed, thoughtful, quantitative content that contributed to the forward progression of the discussion. Post is strongly supported with cited evidence-based literature.
Reply Posts (2+)	Poor: 0	Fair: 1	Good: 3-4	Excellent: 5
Involvement in discussion – comments stimulate continued exploration and understanding of subject, and demonstrated familiarity with topic. Respectful and timely posts.	No replies. Replies lack meaningful content – do not help build understanding of the topic.	Missing 1 post. Replies do not demonstrate familiarity with content and/or are not evidence backed/cited.	Two or more thoughtful replies. Missing citations or reference back to literature/coursework.	Responses were thoughtful, evidence based explorations based on the comments and insights of other learners. Posed new questions, concepts or evidence to further knowledge development
Mechanics	Poor: 0 points		Good: 1 point	Excellent: 2 points
Communicated clearly and well-organized; correct APA format including language, spelling, grammar, and citations; acceptable netiquette practices.	Organization and communication unclear. Significant grammatical errors and poor APA formatting.		Statements were mostly organized and clearly communicated. Grammar and language were overall good. Some APA formatting and citation errors.	Well organized statements. Thoughts are clearly communicated. Excellent grammar and language use.APA formatting and citations with few or no errors.
Netiquette: Rude, profane, or disrespectful comments will result in an automatic score of 0.				