



GUIDE TO ONLINE DISCUSSIONS

The heart of this course is the discussions that take place in the discussion boards. Students need to be aware that their presence in the online discussion boards can make a tremendous difference in the learning experience for all of the students in the classroom.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to log into Blackboard throughout the week to read announcements from the instructor, read course material, submit assignments, and participate in online discussions. Here is a rundown of what is expected.

- Every other week a discussion question will be posted. These questions will usually pertain to the assigned readings of that week.
- You will have to formulate an answer and post it prior to 11:59pm that Sunday evening.
- The following week you will be required to respond to two of your peers with a thoughtful response.
- You will be graded on your initial post and your two responses.
- This will total 20 points for the entire thread (One discussion, two responses).

REMEMBER THESE IMPORTANT GUIDELINES:

1. Read directions
2. Say something substantive
3. Don't procrastinate
4. Ask a question if you're confused
5. Review words for clarity and tone



GRADING RUBRIC

Here is a breakdown of how the first discussion will be graded, followed by the responses.

DISCUSSION GRADING

Points	10	7	3	0
Critical Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rich in content full of thought, insight, and analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> substantial information thought, insight, and analysis has taken place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> generally competent information is thin and commonplace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rudimentary and superficial no analysis or insight is displayed
Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear connections to previous or current to real-life situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> new ideas or connections lack depth and/or detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> limited, if any connections vague generalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no connections are made off topic
Uniqueness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> new ideas new connections made with depth and detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> new ideas or connections lack depth and/or detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> few, if any new ideas or connections rehash or summarize other postings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no new ideas "I agree with..." statement
Timeliness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All required postings Early in discussion Throughout the discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All required postings Some not in time for others to read and respond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All required postings Most at the last minute without allowing for response time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some, or all, required postings missing



RESPONSE GRADING

Points	10	7	3	0
Quality of Post	Appropriate comments: thoughtful, reflective, and respectful of other's postings.	Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to other's postings	Responds, but with minimum effort. (e.g. "I agree with Bill")	No posting.
Relevance of Post	Posts topics related to discussion topic; prompts further discussion of topic	Posts topics that are related to discussion content	Posts topics which do not relate to the discussion content; makes short or irrelevant remarks	No posting.
Contribution to the Learning Community	Aware of needs of community; attempts to motivate the group discussion; presents creative approaches to topic	Attempts to direct the discussion and to present relevant viewpoints for consideration by group; interacts freely	Does not make effort to participate in learning community as it develops	No feedback provided to fellow student.

ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS? PLEASE E-MAIL ME