

Sample Discussion Board Rubric

Provide some general guidelines for how students are expected to participate in the forums. For example:

Posted messages should be significant – helping the discussion move forward. There are a variety of ways to do this, including (generally in some combination over the course of the week or within a posting):

- Providing concrete examples, perhaps from your own experience
- Describing possible consequences or implications
- Challenging something that has been posted in the discussion – perhaps by playing “devil’s advocate”
- Posing a clarifying question
- Suggesting a different perspective or interpretation
- Pulling in related information from other sources – books, articles, websites, other courses, etc.

Your participation score for a given week will be based on the number and quality of messages you post to that week’s discussion. Participation will be evaluated in terms of quality as well as quantity, based on the following scale:

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Timeliness and quantity of discussion responses	3-4 or more posts; well distributed throughout the week	2-3 posts distributed throughout the week.	2-3 posts; posts not distributed throughout the week	1-2 posts; posts not distributed throughout the week
Responsiveness to discussion topics and demonstration of knowledge and understanding from assigned readings.	Readings were understood and incorporated into discussion as it relates to topic.	Readings were understood and incorporated into discussion as it relates to topic.	Little use made of readings.	Little or no use made of readings. Posts have questionable relationships to discussion questions and/or readings; they are non-substantive .

Ability of posts to move discussion forward.	Two or more responses add significantly to the discussions (e.g. identifying important relationships, offering a fresh perspective or critique of a point; offers supporting evidence).	At least one post adds significantly to the discussion.	At least two Posts supplement or add moderately to the discussion	Posts do little to move discussion forward
POINTS	4	3	2	1

Protocol for posting threads and contributing to an online discussion are as follows:

- Postings should be evenly distributed during the discussion period (not concentrated all on one day or at the beginning and/or end of the period).
- Postings should be a minimum of one short paragraph and a maximum of two paragraphs.
- Avoid postings that are limited to 'I agree' or 'great idea', etc. If you agree (or disagree) with a posting, then say why you agree by supporting your statement with concepts from the readings or by bringing in a related example or experience.
- Address the questions as much as possible (don't let the discussion stray).
- Try to use quotes from the articles that support your postings. Include page numbers when you do that.
- Use proper language, grammar, etc. You can express yourself with emojis/emoticons and images, but make sure you are writing with proper English (e.g. no “u” for “you”, etc.).

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