Discussion Posts

Discussion boards or forums give students the opportunity to discuss course topics with each other-- and with their professor-- as they would if they were in a traditional classroom.

To write an effective discussion board post:

• Answer the question posed by your instructor.
• Provide a clear and thorough answer to the question (incorporating some of the wording of the question in your answer).
• Paraphrase rather than quote unless the wording is unique or special.
• Give evidence and provide an explanation for your argument. The evidence you will provide will be from their text, notes, or outside research (where appropriate) to support your point. **REMEMBER TO CITE ALL SOURCES USED**
• Explain the connection by ensuring the evidence provided supports the writer's point. **NEVER ASSUME THE EVIDENCE PROVIDED IS OBVIOUS TO THE READER.**
• Despite discussion posts having an informal tone to them, you are expected to have good sentence structure, spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
• Be clear in the subject line so that the reader knows what to expect in your post.

To write an effective follow-up discussion post:

• You must explain why they agree or disagree with another student’s post and offer your own supporting points and evidence.
• **Be Respectful.** Do not respond emotionally to what others have said. Rather, respond to the ideas and arguments, not the person.

**Note:** While this is an excellent source of reference, students are encouraged to check their syllabus and/or rubric to ensure they include all the requirements of a discussion post.