

## Discussion Posts

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

### **To write an effective discussion board post:**

- Answer the question posed by the 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 the writer will provide will be from their text, notes, or outside research (where appropriate) to support their 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, students 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.

### **To write an effective follow-up discussion post:**

- The writer must explain why they agree or disagree with the student's post and offer their own supporting points and evidence.
- **Be Respectful.** Do not respond emotionally to what others have said. Rather, respond to the ideas and the argument, 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.