

Discussion Participation

The student discussion forums are an important part of an online class. The discussions help to build a community of learners and enhance your understanding of the topics. This is part of your a professional training: you should show respect for classmates and differences of opinion, and participate in a professional manner. As this is a student discussion, I will not respond to every post. Only the initial post is graded. I suggest that you type your response in a word processor, and correct any spelling or grammar errors before copying to the forum.

The guidelines below will help you to get the most out of the discussions:

- Submit your initial post early in the week and respond to other learners at timely intervals. The goal is to have a dynamic discussion around the topic that lasts throughout the week.
- Posts and responses should be thorough and thoughtful. Just posting an "I agree" or "Good ideas" will not be considered adequate. Support statements with examples, experiences, or references.
- Posts should be long enough to answer the question, usually about 3-5 sentences.
- When relevant, add to the discussion by including prior knowledge, work experiences, references, web sites, resources, etc. (giving credit when appropriate).
- Contributions to the discussions (posts and responses) should be complete and free of grammatical or structural errors.

Discussion Participation Rubric

Criteria	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Exemplary
Timeliness	Does not submit an initial post early in the week. 0 points	Submits an initial response early in the week, and responds to another post. 1 point	Submits an initial response early in the week, and engages in a discussion. 2 points
Spelling and mechanics	Post has grammatical or spelling errors that make it difficult to understand. 0 points	Post has one or two grammatical or spelling errors. 1 point	Post is grammatically correct without any spelling errors. 2 points
Understanding of topic	Posts show little evidence of knowledge and understanding of topic. 0 points	Posts show evidence of knowledge and understanding of topic. 1 point	Posts show evidence of knowledge and understanding of topic, and include other resources that extend the learning of the community. 2 points

Total Possible Points: 6 points