

USING THE DISCUSSION BOARD

in Blackboard Learn 9.1

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WHY

When used effectively, it becomes the center of learning.

- Conversations evolve
- Students demonstrate understanding of material
- Connections are made between students, instructor, and material.

ADVANTAGES

For students

- Asynchronous
- Higher level of learning
- Increased student participation
- Students & instructors can revisit the discussion

For instructors:

- Can be moderated
- Can easily be graded
- Organization of topics discussed

USES

- Reflection, synthesizing, and analysis.
- Collaboration
- Student introductions
- Assessment of understanding content
- Debates
- Course Q&A
- Think about the activities you would do in class:
 - Role playing
 - Software demonstrations
 - Student presentations
 - Guest speakers

NEW TERMINOLOGY

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| <p>CE 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussions ▪ Topics ▪ Messages ▪ Reply | <p>Learn 9.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion Board ▪ Forums - <i>an area where participants discuss a topic or a group of related topics. Within each forum, participants can create multiple threads.</i> ▪ Threads - <i>includes all posts</i> ▪ Reply |
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Blogs and Journals are separate tools.

NEW TO BLACKBOARD 9

- Role assignment (manager, moderator, grader, participant, reader)
- Moderated forums
- Grade entries within the tool or in the Grade Center
- Anonymous Grading available
- Specify number of posts required before Needs Grading icon appears in Grade Center

DEVELOPING A DISCUSSION

Define participation requirements

Students need to be aware of your expectations. Is grammar and punctuation graded?

DEVELOPING A DISCUSSION

Craft an effective question

- Avoid “yes” or “no” questions.
- Promote critical thinking with open-ended questions.
- Incorporate multimedia resources.
- Allow students to reply with multimedia.

DEVELOPING A DISCUSSION

Encourage new ideas

- Interject questions that provoke out of the box thinking.
- If discussion posts contain too much agreement and not enough questioning of ideas, try assigning students to support the pro or con side.

DEVELOPING A DISCUSSION

Moderate

- Establish your presence.
- Assign roles such as student led

TIP

- Model proper online interaction and reinforce appropriate behavior with public recognition.

COMMENTING & FEEDBACK

- Remember that your goals are to encourage your students to write more, examine their own writing and learning, and feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and opinions.
- Some instructors award credit for completion rather than in-depth grading, while relying on commenting to encourage, suggest, and guide student responses.
- Focus on content and ideas rather than grammar and punctuation -OR- alert students ahead of time when the mechanics are part of the grade or feedback.
- Always provide positive comments along with areas needing further work.
- Make comments that let students know you are a willing audience who looks forward to their writing.
- Build opportunities for revision into graded reflective writing assignments so students can learn from your comments and refine their work

RESOURCES

TLPDC

- Consultation
- Promoting Interaction:
http://www.tlpd.ttu.edu/content/asp/Distance_Learning/TeachingYourCourse/promoting_interaction.asp

Blackboard.com

- Video Tutorials:
<http://ondemand.blackboard.com/communicate.htm>
