```php
<?php
include 'connect.php';
doDB();

//check for required info from the query string
if (!isset($_GET['topic_id'])) {
    header("Location: topiclist.php");
    exit;
}

//create safe values for use
$safe_topic_id = mysqli_real_escape_string($mysqli, $_GET['topic_id']);

//verify the topic exists
$verify_topic_sql = "SELECT topic_title FROM forum_topics WHERE topic_id = '".$safe_topic_id."'";
$verify_topic_res =  mysqli_query($mysqli, $verify_topic_sql) or die(mysqli_error($mysqli));

if (mysqli_num_rows($verify_topic_res) < 1) {
    //this topic does not exist
    $display_block = "<p><em>You have selected an invalid topic.<br/>
    Please <a href=\"topiclist.php\">try again</a>.</em></p>";
} else {
    //get the topic title
    while ($topic_info = mysqli_fetch_array($verify_topic_res)) {
        $topic_title = stripslashes($topic_info['topic_title']);
    }

    //gather the posts
    $get_posts_sql = "SELECT post_id, post_text, DATE_FORMAT(post_create_time, '%b %e %Y<br/>%r') AS
fmt_post_create_time, post_owner FROM forum_posts WHERE topic_id = '".$safe_topic_id."' ORDER BY
post_create_time ASC";
    $get_posts_res = mysqli_query($mysqli, $get_posts_sql) or die(mysqli_error($mysqli));

    //create the display string
    $display_block = <<<END_OF_TEXT
    <p>Showing posts for the <strong>$topic_title</strong> topic:</p>
    <table>
    <tr>
    <th>AUTHOR</th>
    <th>POST</th>
    </tr>
END_OF_TEXT;

    while ($posts_info = mysqli_fetch_array($get_posts_res)) {
        $post_id = $posts_info['post_id'];
        $post_text = nl2br(stripslashes($posts_info['post_text']));
        $post_create_time = $posts_info['fmt_post_create_time'];
        $post_owner = stripslashes($posts_info['post_owner']);

        //add to display
        $display_block .= <<<END_OF_TEXT
        <tr>
        <td>$post_owner<br/><br/>created on:<br/>$post_create_time</td>
        <td>$post_text<br/><br/>
        <a href="replytopost.php?post_id=$post_id"><strong>REPLY TO POST</strong></a></td>
        </tr>
END_OF_TEXT;
    }

    //free results
    mysqli_free_result($get_posts_res);
```

```php
        mysqli_free_result($verify_topic_res);

        //close connection to MySQL
        mysqli_close($mysqli);

        //close up the table
        $display_block .= "</table>";
}
?>
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<title>Posts in Topic</title>
<link href="discussion.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />
<style type="text/css">
    table {
        border: 1px solid black;
        border-collapse: collapse;
    }
    th {
        border: 1px solid black;
        padding: 6px;
        font-weight: bold;
        background: #ccc;
    }
    td {
        border: 1px solid black;
        padding: 6px;
        vertical-align: top;
    }
    .num_posts_col { text-align: center; }
</style>
</head>
<body>
<h1>Posts in Topic</h1>
<?php echo $display_block; ?>
<p>Would you like to <a href="discussionMenu.html">return to main</a>?</p>
</body>
</html>
```