

Discussion Forums

Tips and Netiquette

Netiquette

Etiquette in all online communications at university is important. There are a few points to follow to make sure you are communicating politely and appropriately online within an academic context:

- Consider your audience and **be courteous**.
- Be **professional** and use appropriate language.
- **Respect** others' opinions.
- **Be careful when using humour** as it can be misinterpreted in an online environment.
- Be **sensitive to cultural differences**.

Discussion forums

Discussion forum posts require you to respond to a question or a discussion within your unit to develop your critical thinking and academic writing skills. Your unit guide will discuss when and how often you should post to the forum.

Posting in discussion forums

Before you post

- Have you had a good **look around** the forum? Familiarise yourself with the structure and requirements of the forum before you begin.
- Have you **checked out some example forum posts**, so you know the features of well-written posts?
- Have you **read what other students have already posted** so you do not repeat the same ideas?

Draft your post

- Have you **considered the question carefully**? Your post will be read by others, so demonstrate what you can do and share what you know.
- Be aware of your post's impact. Be mindful of the words and tone you use.
- Responses to others must be respectful and **further the discussion** (i.e., not simply agree with what others are saying).
- Responses should be carefully considered and **relate to the task**.

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Discussion Forums

Tips and Netiquette

- **Check grammar, spelling and fonts** used to avoid unnecessary mistakes.
- **Cite all sources** used within your post to maintain academic integrity.

Example discussion forum post and response Which is more effective in increasing the wealth of a country: The government or the free-market?

In this post, the author has:

Fully considered and answered the question

Critically considered the issue by looking at both sides

Free-market initiatives are more effective in increasing a country's wealth more than the government-driven one for several reasons. According to Seitz and Hite (2016), the free market is an increasingly wealth-orientated approach, which gives greater freedom to producers due to ability to sell their products at the most advantageous price. For example. With oil prices rising and the increasing focus on environmental sustainability, the free-market environment gives entrepreneurs the freedom to create and develop alternatives, for example solar power. These are examples of countries which used the free-market wisely, leading to flourishing economies post World War 2, namely Japan and West Germany (Smith, 2018). However, the free market could be accused of compounding the plight of the poor, as money is not evenly distributed in a free market. The role of the Government is still crucial, especially on providing domestic tranquility and secure environment for everybody. Government agencies need to maintain order, fair payment and consumer protection (Seitz & Hite, 2016).

Given an opinion based on evidence

Provided examples to support this opinion

Cited all sources. A reference list should follow

In this response the author has:

Furthered the discussion by providing points that others can respond to

Provided evidence and examples to support claims

Thanks for your post, but I must respectfully disagree. The state is the only economic actor that centrally oversees the means of productions and distribution of all goods, services and labour (Seitz & Hite, 2016). This approach ensures that every citizen, not just a few individuals benefit from economic activity because state planners invest capital in essential sectors to bring a greater benefit to society (Jones, 2015). The centrally controlled system also enhances controls on the damage to the environment or to people's health that is associated with the production of goods (Curran, 2012). In this way the economic growth has a positive impact on the whole country, not just the rich. Seitz & Hite (2016) discuss the examples of China and Brazil where the free-market approach has failed to trickle down the benefits gained from the growth to the poor. As a matter of fact, inequality worsened because the poor failed to cope with the rising process of goods. Given these points, my preference is the state approach model.

Provided an opposing viewpoint in a respectful manner

Cited all sources. A full reference list should follow

Adapted From: Macquarie University, University of Wisconsin, University of South Australia

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