

Discussion Forums Rubric

Your facilitator will pose one or more questions for you and your classmates to discuss for the week. Go to Discussions and respond to the questions there.

*Unless otherwise directed by your facilitator, this is how **each** question works:*

1. Threading the Discussion

In order to use the discussion tools to their best advantage and to help with message management, follow the use of threads in the discussions. Please REPLY to the initial posting with your response. When you introduce a totally new idea or concept use COMPOSE to begin a new thread. It is very rare that you will need to begin a new thread.

2. Minimum Requirements for Participation

Volume: You should have a MINIMUM of three (3) postings per discussion question. During the week there may be more than one discussion question. After your initial response to the discussion question, you should provide value-added comments to at least two other student discussion question responses.

Frequency: As stated above, you should have about (3) postings per questions. Post in the beginning of the week (Monday or Tuesday), in the middle of the week (Wednesday or Thursday), and at the end of the week (Friday or Saturday). Discussion threads for the week will be closed out for grading purposes on Sunday evening.

Quality: What your instructor is looking for is "VALUE ADDED" postings to the discussion question responses. Responding with something like "I agree" or "Good point" is NOT an acceptable posting.

Tips on how to approach discussions for your best learning and scoring.

In the beginning of the week (your first post) focus on your COMPREHENSION and APPLICATION of the discussion question. This means you should talk about the component parts of the topic, take the overall topic and subdivide it into 3 or 4 smaller areas. Your posting should use predicates like: restate, discuss, describe, recognize, explain, express, identify, locate, report, review or tell; and translate, interpret, apply, employ, use, demonstrate, dramatize, practice, illustrate, operate, or schedule.

In the middle of the week (your second posting), after you have read what other students are saying, you should focus your posting on the ANALYSIS and SYNTHESIS of the discussion questions. Take what other students have said and give it more analysis, and then take what you have said and what you have learned from others, and say something new about the topic to add to the discussion. Your posting should use predicates like: distinguish, analyze, differentiate, appraise, calculate, experiment, test, compare, contrast, criticize, diagram, inspect, debate, inventory, question, relate, solve, or examine; and compose, plan, propose, design, formulate, arrange, assemble, collect, construct, create, design, set up, organize, manage, or prepare.

At the end of the week, you should focus on EVALUATING everything stated prior. Express your opinions, form conclusions, make judgments about what you have learned, applied, analyzed, and synthesized. Your postings should use predicates like: judge, appraise, evaluate, rate, compare, value, revise, score, select, choose, assess, estimate, or measure.

This doesn't mean that you have to write a book when posting to the discussion forum! In fact, the more clearly and succinctly you can respond and articulate, the better. The quantity of your words is not as important as the quality of your words!