

Discussion and Written Assignment Expectations

What's the Purpose of Discussion Forums?

Throughout the term you will share ideas and experiences with your peers. The Moodle discussion forum is the online equivalent of a traditional class discussion. But whereas a classroom discussion may involve only a handful of students, online everyone has equal opportunity **and time** to contribute ideas and insights.

What's Required for Successful Forum Participation

For this class to be successful, you must be an active participant. You are expected to contribute to each class session. This includes asking thought provoking questions, answering other's questions, and adding relevant information. To earn maximum points, qualify your contributions with meaningful and well-researched statements. State your reasons for a particular belief and cite sources to support your ideas. Likewise, refer to peers' comments in your secondary posts to build on concepts. As always, be polite.

Forum Grading and Assessment

Ultimately, quality work is more important than quantity. Consequently, your success (and grade) will reflect the significance of your contributions, not a minimum number of postings or words. Unless instructed otherwise, you should:

- Post your **initial** contribution or answer by **Wednesday**, 11:55 p.m. (Eastern Time).
- Post your secondary **responses** to at least two classmates by **Saturday**, 11:55 p.m.
- Use APA format for in-text citations and references (unless instructed otherwise).

Written Assignments

You will submit many written assignments to demonstrate your understanding of course concepts or target skills. Grading will be based on course outcomes, content, use of resources, and adherence to college-level writing and grammar standards. Though each assignment may specify unique requirements, written work usually requires the following common elements:

- 1-inch margins
- Double spaced
- 12-point Arial or Times New Roman font
- Title page with topic and your name
- References page (assignment may specify minimum number of resources)