

General Discussion Board Guidelines

Discussion Board Forums pose an opportunity for rich and meaningful student learning and interaction. Online discussions extend classroom learning by providing an asynchronous method of communication for the exchange of meaningful ideas that promote critical thinking and develop thoughtful reflective learning. In other words, the discussions are not writing to the professor but rather a time to learn from one another as the professor observes. All students are expected to participate in each weekly discussion. These forums will expect you to go beyond summarization. While the first third to half of a post might be showing that you grasp the assigned material, the rest of the post should indicate that you are engaging with it, showing that you have analyzed it and can indicate new insights or gaps in the original material. Please review the syllabus for specifics on the assignments.

Consider the following when you post:

- Is the contribution mechanically clear enough for readers to understand the points being made?
- Is the contribution on time?
- Does the contribution meet the minimum length requirements?
- Does the contribution reference scripture, assigned readings, and other scholarly sources?
- Does the post contain “critical thinking” that is indicative of the paradigms in the field?
- Are the ideas communicated with respect for those who may dissent?

You are also required to respond to at least two colleagues. Consider the following when you reply:

- Is the reply mechanically clear enough for readers to understand the points?
- Does the tone of the reply demonstrate respect towards the author of the original post?
- Does the reply inspire further discussion among the class?

Other things to consider:

- Please be professional and courteous.
- Online communication lacks the non-verbal cues that provide much of the meaning in face-to-face conversations. Choose your words carefully, phrase your sentences clearly, and keep your sentences and paragraphs brief.
- Review appropriate “Netiquette” at <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>
- State the main topic of your posting in the Subject line – but make sure it is concise.
- Proofread what you post. You may want to use MS Word to draft what you intend to say, check your spelling and grammar, and then paste your text into the Message section of your posting. Do not use special font formatting in the body of your post. If font formatting (italics) for references do not carry over from your cut/paste, do not worry – this will not be deducted from your grade. However, all your other reference information should follow APA 7th.
- Please do not use all capital letters. It makes it hard to read, and it comes across as though you were shouting