

Online Discussion Forum Grading rubric

General Expectations:

I expect you to participate in all of the discussion forums in this course. At the very least, I want you to post an original thought and a response to somebody else's thought for each discussion. Doing this will earn a "B". Doing more will earn an "A". How much more? I don't grade by counting up your posts, but for an A, you really need to be part of the discussion more than just by submitting one or two solo thoughts, and more than just responding with a remark such as, "I agree!"

Grading Rubric:

All the discussions are worth 10 points (instead of 100 like the problem sets) because that makes my life easier and it seems a bit silly to try to distinguish between, say, a 92 and a 93 in a subjective measure of "quality of participation." In the case where we break into groups and then rejoin with the whole class, your participation within your group discussion and your participation within the larger class discussion each count for half of that discussion grade (5 points each).

Grading participation in a discussion is always subjective but I try my best. Here is what I look for:

1. Promptness and Initiative: The A student consistently initiates and/or responds to postings daily during the discussion period and demonstrates good self-initiative.
2. Delivery of Post: The A student consistently makes grammatically correct posts with rare misspellings.
3. Relevance of Post: The A student consistently posts topics related to discussion topic; cites additional references related to topic.
4. Expression Within the Post: The A student expresses opinions and ideas in a clear and concise manner with obvious connection to topic.
5. Contribution to the Learning Community: The A student is aware of needs of community; frequently attempts to motivate the group discussion; presents creative approaches to topic

My numerical grading scale (i.e. what range of scores equals an "A" or a "B", etc.) can be found in the course syllabus.

Online Discussion Rubric				
	0	1	2	3
Promptness and Initiative	Does not respond to most postings; rarely participates freely	Responds to most postings several days after initial discussion; limited initiative	Responds to most postings within a 24 hour period; requires occasional prompting to post	Consistently responds to postings in less than 24 hours; demonstrates good self-initiative
Delivery of Post	Utilizes poor spelling and grammar in most posts; posts appear "hasty"	Errors in spelling and grammar evidenced in several posts	Few grammatical or spelling errors are noted in posts	Consistently uses grammatically correct posts with rare misspellings
Relevance of Post	Posts topics which do not relate to the discussion content; makes short or irrelevant remarks	Occasionally posts off topic; most posts are short in length and offer no further insight into the topic	Frequently posts topics that are related to discussion content; prompts further discussion of topic	Consistently posts topics related to discussion topic; cites additional references related to topic
Expression Within the Post	Does not express opinions or ideas clearly; no connection to topic	Unclear connection to topic evidenced in minimal expression of opinions or ideas	Opinions and ideas are stated clearly with occasional lack of connection to topic	Expresses opinions and ideas in a clear and concise manner with obvious connection to topic
Contribution to the Learning Community	Does not make effort to participate in learning community as it develops; seems indifferent	Occasionally makes meaningful reflection on group's efforts; marginal effort to become involved with group	Frequently attempts to direct the discussion and to present relevant viewpoints for consideration by group; interacts freely	Aware of needs of community; frequently attempts to motivate the group discussion; presents creative approaches to topic