

Now We're Talking!

Engaging Discussions in the Online Classroom



In this fast-paced presentation, strategies for discussion board questions, tips for creative discussion board activities, and techniques for generating follow-up conversations will be shared. Assessment options and different grading rubrics for online discussion boards will be shared as well.

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- Assistant Professor
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Agenda



Strategies for Discussion Board Questions

- Types of Discussion Forum
- Prompts

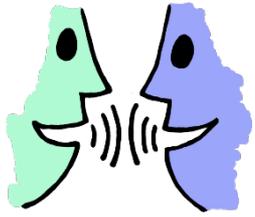


Techniques for Generating Follow-up Conversations



Assessment

- Feed Forward
- Feedback
- Grading Rubrics



Types of Discussion Forums

- Student Introductions
- Student-to-Faculty
- Student-to-Student
- Content

Student Introduction Forums

“The reinforcement and establishment of unique, individual personas may be accomplished through **opportunities such as student introductions at the beginning of the course**, referencing specific learners by name, providing credit to specific students when their ideas are described and shared within a group, building upon the ideas of participants within a group, and through affirmative feedback for important contributions made to a discussion” (Levine, 2007).

Student Introduction Forums

Hello,

I want to learn about you. Please introduce yourself.

Introduce yourself briefly. Discuss your prior knowledge of and interest in the course topic. Also, explain how this course will assist you in your career path.

Dr. Mary Rountree

Please introduce yourself to the class. Tell us your major, a bit about your family, your interests, and whatever else you want to share!

Hello and welcome,

I look forward to learning about you. Please introduce yourself in this discussion thread. It is my pleasure to work with you over the next eight weeks.

Dr. Mary Rountree

Student Introduction Forums

Hello, David.

Welcome to the class. It is nice to meet you. I agree, David. You make such an important point about balancing personal communication with virtual communication.

Talk to you soon,
Dr. Mary Rountree

Hello, Henry,

It's nice to meet you. Welcome to the class. What video games are your inspiration for your major?

Dr. Mary Rountree

Hello, LaDonna.

It is nice to meet you. I look forward to working with you. Thank you for your military service. I'm glad you are looking forward to this adventure!

Let's get started,
Dr. Mary Rountree

Student-to-Faculty Discussion Forums

Hello, everyone,

Feel free to post your course-related questions here. Note that everyone can see your posts. Feel free to email me, too.

Dr. Mary Rountree

Hello and welcome to General Course Questions,

Feel free to ask questions about the course here. If you know the answer, jump in and help! Email me, too, routreem50@uiu.edu.

Dr. Mary Rountree

This is the area where you can ask questions of a general nature and add any comments or observations.

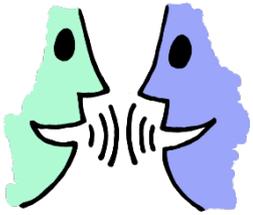
Chances are fairly good that a few of your classmates have some of the same questions, and your post here will be helpful to others in class.

Student-to-Student Discussion Forums

Use this non-graded forum to help one another understand course material, to discuss course concepts and ideas, and to collaborate* with peers from a variety of backgrounds and cultures.

Content Discussion Forums

- Students want their instructor involved in discussion interaction (Hew, 2015).
- Frequency does not matter! What an instructor says matters (Hoey, 2018).
- “The student is able to identify with a group, communicate purposefully in a trusting environment, and develop personal and affective relationships progressively by way of projecting their individual personalities.”
(Garrison, 2011, p. 23)



Prompts

Should the Fourth Amendment be updated to reflect the latest technology?

Provide a link to a website of an e-commerce business you particularly admire. How does it demonstrate the principles of web design discussed in Chapter 3?

In this week's learning activities, you discovered several techniques for network security. Contrast the methods and select the best method. Justify your response.

How does an organization interact with its environment?

Everyone that uses computers and mobile devices experience problems at some point. Describe, in detail, a problem that you have experienced with technology.

Prompts – One Question

For a 24-hour period, keep a technology diary noting every interaction you have with some form of technology. Share a summary of your technology interactions.

Share your major, job, or a field of study that is of interest to you. Every field uses hardware, software, the Internet, and other forms of electronic communication. Describe how your selected field uses technology.

Is Windows or Mac better?

What is the best operating system?

What are the 3 best Internet browsers?

Prompts – One Question

- 1) What kinds of documents have you or could you create with Microsoft Word?
 - a) What are some of the features of Microsoft Word?
 - i) How might a physical therapist use Microsoft Word?
 - ii) What is mail merge?
 - (1) How does mail merge help a business be more efficient?
- 2) A bit later in the course, we will use Microsoft Excel. What is Microsoft Excel used for?
 - i) What are the advantages of Microsoft Excel?
 - ii) “Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word can be used to accomplish the same tasks.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?
 - iii) How might an accountant use Microsoft Excel?
- 3) Later in the course, we will use Microsoft PowerPoint. What is PowerPoint?
 - i) How might a detective use PowerPoint?

Prompts – Multiple Questions

Go to the <http://www.dice.com/> website and research jobs listed in your major. Address the following questions in your post:

1. What level of experience and education are the jobs in this category?
2. How many of these jobs are listed?
3. Where are these jobs located?
4. What is the salary range?
5. What type of companies are supporting these jobs?

Review other students' posts and comment on how their jobs related to the job you selected.

Prompts – Comment on a Resource

“To err is human, but to really foul things up requires a computer.”

This anonymous quote, from a 1982 BBC radio broadcast, reflects the way many people once felt about computers. In 1982, few people owned a personal computer, and only a few more had much confidence in them. Since that time, however, over a billion personal computers have been purchased. How has the increasingly widespread availability and use of computers changed people’s feelings about them?

Read this article: _____

In your own words, describe whether you agree or disagree with this article and explain how it relates to web design.

Research the topic of web morality. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Behaving ethically is often practical because most of the time we are honest, we keep our promises, we do not steal, and we do our jobs. Therefore, behaving ethically, in personal or professional sphere, is usually not a burden."

Prompts – Mini Case Study

Those Aren't Mine!

You are the digital forensics investigator for a law firm. The firm acquired a new client, a young woman who was fired from her job for inappropriate files discovered on her computer. She swears she never accessed the files. What questions should you ask and how should you proceed?

Those Aren't Mine Part 2

Let's assume innocence for a moment...Even if she did not place the files on her computer, do you think she should be responsible for what is on her computer?

Very true, Lauren and Trenton.

Having a policy that IT always provide a fresh computer could ensure that there is no doubt that the files were not here before.

Could other policies help this scenario?

Prompts – Become an Expert

View the discussion posts to see what topics have been selected. Choose a security method from Chapter 7 that has not been selected by another student. Explain the security method that you selected. Be prepared to answer questions about it.

Choose one of the following topics that has not yet been selected. Research and explain the topic for your main post.

Prompts – Post Assignment

Post your final project presentation that you created in Week 7.

The purpose of this discussion is to share your insight into the presentation made by your fellow students.

1. What did you learn from each presentation?
2. What do you think was best stated in each presentation?
3. Contribute one improvement (an added fact or explanation of a fact) to each presentation that was not supplied?

Prompts – Reflection

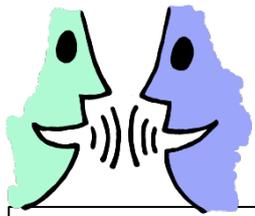
Rovai (2007) suggested that the online instructor can encourage reflective discussions by asking thought-provoking questions at the beginning and throughout the course of the discussion topic.

Prompts – Reflection

This week, we covered enterprise resource planning and e-commerce businesses. What did you learn this week?

This week, we covered enterprise resource planning and e-commerce businesses. What was the muddiest point for you this week?

Describe three things you have learned in this course.



Generating Follow-up Conversations

This is an important question to begin our discussions. No business exists in a vacuum, so analyzing how a business interacts with its environment(s) helps us focus on aspects we can control (our business) or not control (our environment).

Adam identified external environments including politics and this reminded me of government policies and regulations. This environment can be quite impactful and expensive!

What government policies impact businesses?

Like you, as you explain, deciding whether to create a web, mobile, or stand alone product is not an easy decision. Another consideration is native apps. A native app is one that works with a particular platform such as Apple. This article gives insight into the pros and cons of native and mobile apps:

<https://www.lifewire.com/pros-and-cons-of-native-apps-and-mobile-web-apps-2373173>

Generating Follow-up Conversations

Security is always an important topic as Sarunas noted about Amazon. SOA (the other discussion topic) can help with this.

How do you know an e-commerce site is secure?

Michael, as a web developer, suppose you were asked to develop an e-commerce site that does not support your beliefs. How would you manage this scenario?

Generating Follow-up Conversations

Darman, I agree that talking to the employees who are completing tasks is the good approach to determining needs. This has been an effective strategy for me to improve efficiency. Talking with supervisors gives me another perspective of goals and new ways of completing the tasks. Telecommuting and teleconferencing are growing and important considerations as well.

Here is an article on a smarter and safer military due to technology. <http://www.news.gatech.edu/features/smarter-and-safer-military>. Darman, being in the Army, how is the military different in the determination of needs than a company?

Generating Follow-up Conversations

Use of cloud computing has grown dramatically as Sarunas explains. It has many advantages including rapid implementation, accessibility, and cost. Because cloud computing providers have already installed and tested technology, businesses can quickly implement new systems. It's available wherever an internet connection is available. Cloud computing can save money because businesses do not invest in costly servers and software.

With all of these advantages, some stakeholders are still resistant to implement cloud computing. Why do you think this is?

Generating Follow-up Conversations

As Rhonda explains, one of the most important considerations is money. CIO magazine recommends 5% of the overall budget be allocated to IT. Suppose the needs analysis shows a fit for a \$100,000 software/hardware package. However, the budget is \$50,000.

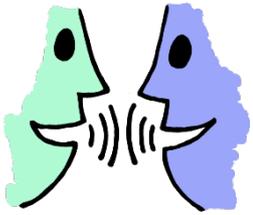
Everyone, Rhonda, what would you approach be?

References

n.d., How Much Should a Company Spend on IT?, Retrieved from <https://techvera.com/company-it-spend/>.

Generating Follow-up Conversations

The county prosecutor has hired you to investigate a case in which the county treasurer has been accused of embezzlement. What additional resources, such as other experts, might you need to collect data for this investigation?



Assessment – Feed Forward

...

Your main post is due by on Thursday of Week 2, and your 2 replies are due by midnight on Sunday of the same week.

In your main post, you must completely respond to the prompt(s) and post a thread that has a minimum of 3 paragraphs and 250 words. You must also submit replies that are at least 150 words. You must also support posts from at least 1 scholarly sources. Complete paragraphs, correct grammar and spelling, proper APA formatting, and correct citation of information is required.

...

Assessment – Feed Forward

For full participation credit in the discussions, you need be active in the discussions in 4 of the 7 days in the Monday to Sunday week. You need an initial post and at least 2 substantial responses in each discussion thread.

Substantive means comments that demonstrate comprehension and involve dialogue which extends the depth and/or breadth of discussions. 'I agree' or 'disagree' alone or similar statements will not be considered as a substantive response.

Assessment – Feedback

Bill, you had an excellent week in the discussion on hardware needs. You were successful in explaining the needs of the financial institution. I appreciated your points on security. Your responses to others were interesting and helpful.

You answered the questions posed in the initial discussion prompt. Your initial post met the deadline of Thursday at midnight. You posted two responses before the deadline of midnight on Sunday.

I look forward to reading your posts in next week's discussion on software needs. Please let me know if I can be of assistance.

Dr. Mary Rountree

Assessment – Feedback

...

Your two replies were missed (2 replies X 5 points = - 10) For full credit, post two replies to me or others.

...

...

We missed your discussion this week. Because no posts were submitted, the points earned is zero. To earn all possible points next week, be sure to post high quality posts at least three times on three separate days in each discussion starting no later than Thursday.

...

Assessment – Grading Rubrics

Initial Response Content	Level 4 - Excellent 3 points	Level 3 - Promising 2 points	Level 2 - Limited 1 point	Level 1 - Incomplete 0 points
Initial Response Content	Demonstrates mastery in comprehension and ability to make a substantive initial response that meets word count, netiquette, academic integrity, spelling, and grammar expectations.	Demonstrates proficiency in comprehension and ability to make a substantive initial response that meets word count, netiquette, academic integrity, spelling, and grammar expectations.	Demonstrates partial proficiency in comprehension and ability to make a substantive initial response that meets word count, netiquette, academic integrity, spelling, and grammar expectations.	Demonstrates no or limited proficiency in comprehension and ability to make a substantive initial response that meets word count, netiquette, academic integrity, spelling, and grammar expectations.

Assessment – Grading Rubrics

Initial Response Timeliness	Level 4 - Excellent 1 point	Level 1 - Incomplete 0 points
Initial Response Timeliness	Posted initial response by due date.	Posted initial response after due date.

Assessment – Grading Rubrics

Participation Responses	Level 4 - Excellent 2 points	Level 3 - Promising 1 point	Level 1 - Incomplete 0 points
Response #1	Demonstrates mastery in comprehension and ability to make a substantive initial response that meets word count, netiquette, academic integrity, spelling, and grammar expectations.	Demonstrates proficiency in comprehension and ability to make a substantive initial response that meets word count, netiquette, academic integrity, spelling, and grammar expectations.	Demonstrates limited or no proficiency in comprehension and ability to make a substantive initial response that meets word count, netiquette, academic integrity, spelling, and grammar expectations.
Response #2	Demonstrates mastery in comprehension and ability to make a substantive initial response that meets word count, netiquette, academic integrity, spelling, and grammar expectations.	Demonstrates proficiency in comprehension and ability to make a substantive initial response that meets word count, netiquette, academic integrity, spelling, and grammar expectations.	Demonstrates limited or no proficiency in comprehension and ability to make a substantive initial response that meets word count, netiquette, academic integrity, spelling, and grammar expectations.

Assessment – Grading Rubrics

Initial Response Content	Level 4 - Excellent 3 points	Level 3 - Promising 2 points	Level 2 - Limited 1 point	Level 1 - Incomplete 0 points
Participation Responses	Level 4 - Excellent 2 points	Level 3 - Promising 1 point	Level 1 - Incomplete 0 points	
Participation	Participated a minimum 4 of 7 days in discussions in the online week	Participated a minimum 3 of 7 days in discussions in the online week	Participated 2 or less of 7 days in discussions in the online week	
Overall Score	Level 4 - Excellent 10 or more	Level 3 - Promising 9 or more	Level 2 - Limited 8 or more	Level 1 - Incomplete 0 or more

Assessment – Grading Rubrics

Discussion Rubric		
Element	Points	Maximum Total
Frequency	2 points per day	6 points
Quality	3 points for high quality post	9 points
	2 points for medium quality post	
	1 point for low quality post	
Total		15 points

Assessment – Grading Rubrics

Comprehension

25 %

Exemplary

Proficient

Needs Improvement

Not Evident

Integration of Fundamental IT

Concepts

25 %

Exemplary

Proficient

Needs Improvement

Not Evident

Timeliness

25 %

Exemplary

Proficient

Needs Improvement

Not Evident

Engagement

25 %

Exemplary

Proficient

Needs Improvement

Not Evident

References

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Summary



Strategies for Discussion Board Questions

- Types of Discussion Forum
- Prompts



Techniques for Generating Follow-up

Conversations



Assessment

- Feed Forward
- Feedback
- Grading Rubrics

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