Navigating Online Discussions

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Click on the image above for example discussion prompts

Know your purpose and communicate it

Discussion board assignments can:

- 1. encourage engagement with the course materials
- 2. foster connections between students
- 3. facilitate collaborative learning



Ways to encourage student engagement

- 1. Multiple deadlines- Avoid the "post and run" phenomenon
 - Initial Post: Wednesday (complete initial task)
 - Responses: Thursday (respond to classmates)
 - Follow-Up: Friday (return to review and re-engage with those who commented on posts or follow-up prompts)

2. **Smaller groups**- 15-20 students allows for diversity of responses but remains manageable

3. **Prompts that encourage diversity and student connection**-Promote engaging experience for students and help them learn Click on the image above for video explaining discussion assignments to students



Click on the image above for example rubric and feedback

Discussion facilitation and feedback

1. **No need to respond to every student-** provide constructive feedback and positive reinforcement to help students achieve learning objectives

2. **Follow-up posts or summary feedback-** redirect discussion via general post to all students or provide discussion summary feedback via e-mail/video

3. **Simple rubrics-** save time and give students information about how to improve with simple rubrics



- O All students participate unlike large face-to face discussion
- **02** Can more easily determine whether students understand
- **03** Stronger students help other students, benefiting all
- 04 Get to know students and their experiences



0 Some students do not respond to follow-up questions

02 More challenging to moderate due to asynchronous nature



- **O** Require short summary after the discussion to foster synthesis
- **02** Include separate section on the rubric for responding to followup threads posed by the instructor
- **03** Team-based discussions to produce a single product

Cor more information

Cleveland State University <u>Center for E-Learning</u>.

Cleveland State University <u>Center for Faculty</u> <u>Excellence</u>.

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