

Navigating Online Discussions

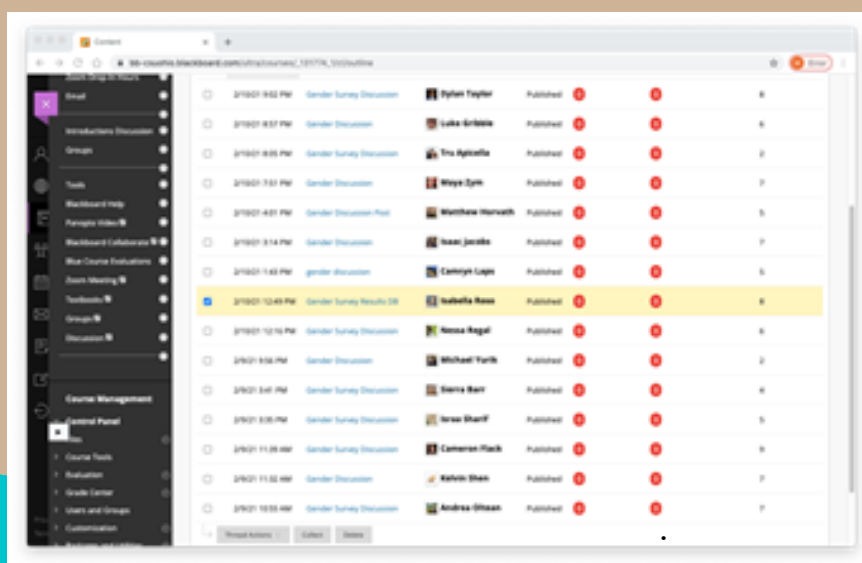
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Know your purpose and communicate it

Discussion board assignments can:

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



Click on the image above
for example discussion prompts

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

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



Click on the image above
for example rubric and feedback



PROS

- 01** 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

CONS

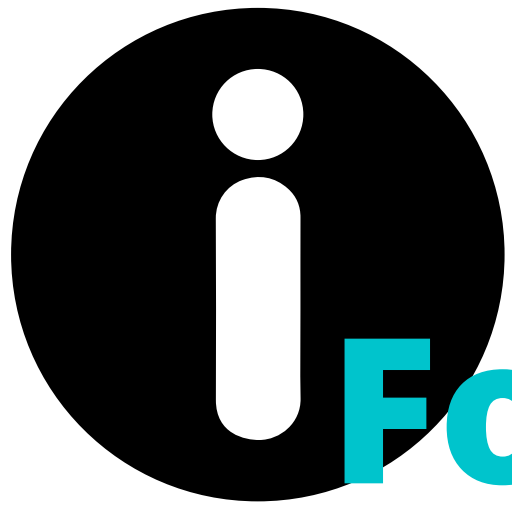


- 01** Some students do not respond to follow-up questions
- 02** More challenging to moderate due to asynchronous nature



THOUGHTS FOR FUTURE

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



For more information

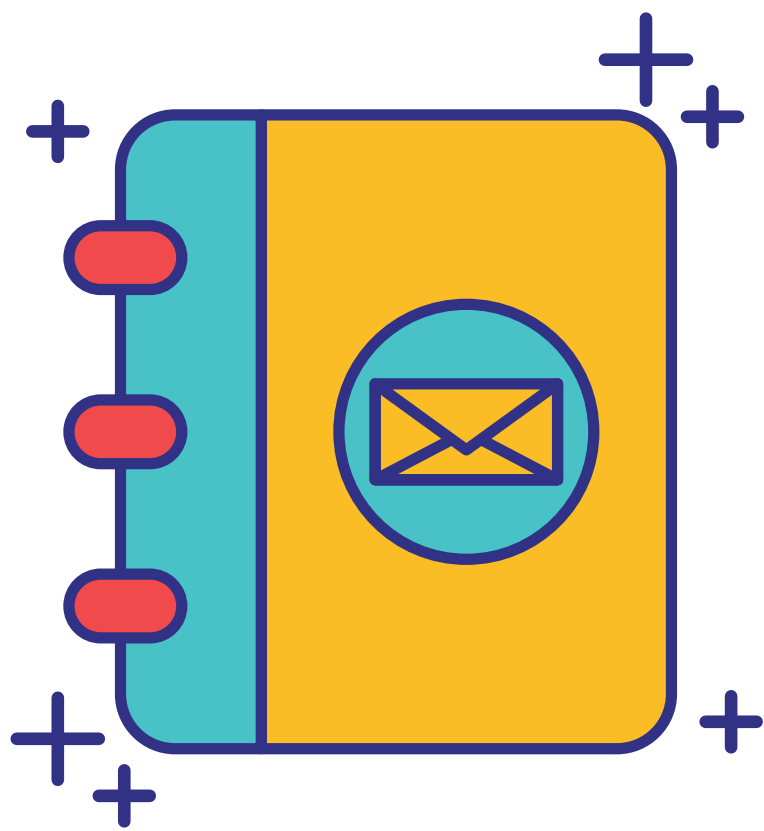
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