



Designing Engaging Discussions

Session Handout



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Discussion Boards

What is a Discussion in Blackboard Learn?

What is the difference between a forum, thread, and post?

Identify the areas indicated in the image below:

The screenshot shows a Blackboard Discussion Board interface. The title bar is labeled 'Discussion Board'. Below the title bar is a blue header bar. The main content area contains two discussion topics. The first topic is 'Oceans in the News' with a description and a due date. The second topic is 'Wave Assignment: Energy From Waves and Tides' with a list of bullet points and a point value. To the right of the topics are three vertical columns representing different views: 'All' (19 posts), 'Archived' (7 posts), and 'New' (13 posts). The interface is annotated with letters A, B, C, and D. A points to the blue header bar, B points to the 'Description' label, C points to the 'Arch' column, and D points to the 'New' column.

	All	Arch	New
Oceans in the News	19	7	13
Wave Assignment: Energy From Waves and Tides	15	3	11

Discussion Boards (continued)

Match the role with the correct definition.

Role	Definition:
#_____ Manager	1. These users cannot access the forum.
#_____ Builder	2. Can read, reply to, and grade posts. The grader role has some access to the Grade Center, but cannot assign grades to their own work. Users with a course role of grader are granted this forum role by default.
#_____ Moderator	3. Full control over a forum and can change forum settings, moderate posts, and assign roles and grades. Instructor and/or TA's have this by default.
#_____ Grader	4. Can read and reply to posts. Students are granted this by default.
#_____ Participant	5. Can delete, edit, and lock all posts in any forum, even if the forum does not use the moderation queue. Can also approve or reject post in the queue before they are made available to all users. Instructor and/or TA's have this by default.
#_____ Reader	6. Can edit, copy, and delete forums, but not grade or manage forums
#_____ Blocked	7. Can read the contents of a forum, but cannot post responses or add threads.

What is the benefit of tagging threads?

Discussion Board Resources



Introduction: Discussion Board

https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Instructor/080_Collaboration/010_Discussions

Setting Up a Discussion Board

https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Instructor/080_Collaboration/010_Discussions/020_Set_Up_Discussions

Grading Discussion Boards

https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Instructor/080_Collaboration/010_Discussions/090_Grade_Discussions

Searching and Collecting

https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Instructor/080_Collaboration/010_Discussions/080_Search_and_Collect_Discussions

Activity: Explore Your Discussion Boards

- Do you have a discussion board already in use? If so, navigate to one of them and answer the following questions:
 - Do your instructions include:
 - Clear expectations for the activity.
 - Outline how students will be graded (if applicable).
 - Examples of successful and unsuccessful replies.
 - Can the activity be modified to include different roles to moderate?
 - If yes, write out the modifications you will make:

 - Are you providing students with netiquette standards? Do they know where to find them?

 - Do you let students delete their own posts?

 - How would the activity change if you decided to force moderation?

- If you do not have a Discussion Board, try creating one in your practice room. Include the following elements:
 - Clear instructions that outline expectations, grading options (if applicable), and examples of what would be successful or unsuccessful replies.
 - Setup the correct moderations settings. (i.e. will you be the only one to moderate or will you be using others to help?)
 - Additional settings: will they be able to delete their posts or make edits?
 - Where to find netiquette information (create if you do not have one currently).