



# Asynchronous Conferencing Using Blackboard

## Faculty Summer Institute

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## Projects

### Current Location: Top



#### **Introduction to the Discussion Board**

The Blackboard Discussion Board is an asynchronous communication tool. "Asynchronous" means that the communication between or among participants does not take place simultaneously. Rather, participants in a discussion forum can "post" messages and "reply" to messages without having to be online at the same time such as with "chat" which requires a real-time interaction between two or more participants.

Discussion boards can be used effectively to build a community of learners through social and course-specific interaction.



#### **Discussion Board-ese**

**Discussion Board** - Blackboard area that provides forums for asynchronous discussion.

**Forum** - topic "container" in which discussion board participants post and reply to messages.

**Message** - one "post" on a discussion board.

**Post** - one "message" on a discussion board.

**Reply** - post or message completed as a result of reading a post or message and clicking the "Reply" button.

**Thread** - series of messages or postings consisting of at least one original post or message and a reply. By default threads are organized by placing the original post flush with the left margin. Each reply is indented to the right under the original post. Options within the Blackboard Discussion Board can reorganize or resort threads based on user preference.



#### **Accessing the Blackboard Discussion Board**



#### **Setting Up Forums**



#### **Designing Discussion Prompts for General and Non-Graded Forums**



#### **Designing Discussion Prompts for Graded Assignments**



#### **Managing Discussion Board Postings**



#### **Evaluating Discussion Board Postings**



#### **Session Evaluation**

Please provide feedback on this session by posting in the "Session Evaluation" forum. You may post anonymously to this forum. If you wish to post anonymously, don't forget to check the box at the bottom of the posting.



#### **Archiving Discussion Board Postings**

Discussion board postings can be archived although a forum must exist to have an archive exist. Archiving will not be covered in depth in this workshop. However, if you would like more information on archiving please visit the links provided in the External Tools section of this course site.

## Discussion Board

 Add Forum**1** [Assignment #1 - First Impressions \(3 points\)](#)

Modify

Remove

This forum will be used for Assignment #1 - First Impressions. In this forum you will post a message that describes your first impression of how you might use the discussion board in your course. You will also reply to one of your fellow participants.

[ No Messages ]

**Part I:**

Post criteria:

Subject Line (1 point)-A phrase that describes how you might use the discussion board in your course

Message (1 point)-Describe one purpose for which you might use the discussion board in your course. Tell if the purpose is social or related to an assignment. Tell how this forum might develop your online community of learners.

**Part II (1 point):**

Reply to one of your fellow participants telling why you would or wouldn't incorporate his or her idea for use of the discussion board into your course.

**2** [Assignment #2 - Anonymous Postings \(2 points\)](#)

Modify

Remove

This forum will be used for Assignment #2. Please post according to the following criteria:

[ No Messages ]

Subject (1 point): Indicate in your subject line by typing "Yes" or "No" if you can see a application for allowing students to make anonymous postings in a discussion forum or forums.

Message (1 point): If you typed "Yes" tell how you could use anonymous postings effectively. If you typed "No" tell why.

**3** [Assignment #3 - Non-Graded Forums \(0 points\)](#)

Modify

Remove

Although this forum is not graded by points your participation is encouraged and expected.

[ No Messages ]

Subject: Type the name of an ungraded forum you might include in your course.

Message: Tell how you would encourage participation in that forum.

**4** [Assignment #5 - File Attachments \(0 points\)](#)

Modify

Remove

The original posting in this forum includes a file attachment. You will not be able to add new threads in this posting but rather only reply to existing posts.

[ 1 Message ]

[ All read ]

Enter the forum and review the file attached to the original post. Respond to the question in the file attachment by replying to the original post.

**5** [Assignment #6 - Final Thoughts \(5 points\)](#)

Modify

Remove

Subject (1 point): Type a word or phrase that describes how you feel about using the discussion board in your course

[ No Messages ]

Message: (4 points) Post a 3-5 sentence narrative describing how the Blackboard Discussion board will or will not meet your needs to develop an online community of learners.

**6** [Session Evaluation](#)

Modify

Remove

Please provide an evaluation of this session. You may post anonymously, if desired.

[ No Messages ]

Please tell the following:

1. The best thing about the session.
2. The worst thing about the session.
3. Something you might do differently as a result of participating in this session.

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OK