

Facilitating Better Canvas Conversations

This workshop will explore features of the Discussion tool in Canvas that can be used to engage students in more meaningful conversations. Additionally, several tips will be provided to enhance civility and community among students using the discussion board.

Deeper Participation

1. Provide more specific discussion prompt
2. Users must post before seeing replies
3. Enable podcast feed
4. Show students how to subscribe for immediate notifications & responding via email
5. Respond to the person immediately before you (no one gets left out)
6. Encourage video/audio posts
7. All day chat/Synchronous chat
8. Allow students to attach files and other outside resources (YouTube)
9. Group chats
10. Expectations for substantive posts
11. Grading rubric for discussions (points for substantive contribution)

Civility & Community

12. Upload photos to profile so they show up in discussion board
13. Require students to base differences of perspective on more than just their opinions
14. Provide guidelines for civility, professionalism, respect, etc. (netiquette)
15. Allow liking with guidelines (peer evaluation)
16. Communicate policy for inappropriate posts

Sample Expectations For Substantive Posts

Examples of substantive contributions that you could initiate may include:

- Taking a concept from the reading and applying it to life, your work, and/or prior experience
- Thoughts to explain patterns you see in the reading
- Summarizing aspects of the assigned reading

Examples of substantive responses to your peers' messages include:

- A well-thought-out observation in response to the ideas or details of someone else's message
- A clear, respectful difference of opinion
- An alternative perspective offered for consideration
- A polite push-back on a statement with supporting reasons for your disagreement
- A personal experience that either supports your agreement or disagreement with an individual's statement