

How to Post Group Discussion Forum Assignments

For each Discussion Forum Question you are answering, please respond to the thread that has already been created for that question. Remember you need to respond to 1 question per chapter - and to the extent you can, pick questions other group members have NOT already responded to (see group discussion forum grading rubric). There are only 4 – 5 questions per chapter, so at some point you may have to respond to a question another group member has already answered. **To earn full credit, make sure you add something new to the discussion or make it clear that you are providing your own spin on the material, provide a different example, etc.**

Adequate responses will be well-informed and demonstrate that you have read the material rather than simply stating opinions. This is certainly a judgment call, but you will find that if you show you have put some thought into your answers and that you have read your textbook (**hint: cite page numbers, discuss points the author brings up, define terms in the questions**), you should easily earn all points for responses to the chapter questions.

****Part 1 is due Wednesday by noon.**

For Part 2, you will need to post a minimum of two responses to group members' responses that have already been posted. You may want to start a discussion about a group member's response to a chapter question, you may want to respond with a follow up question to a group member's response, but the point is that by discussing the material further, you will gain greater understanding and knowledge. **Responses** to your group members' posts may draw on personal experience **but should primarily make reference to course material.** These responses should be more than "I agree" or "that is interesting" and should be well-informed. When possible, back up your information (for example, indicate where in the reading you are getting information if it is a factual-based question).

****Part 2 is due Friday by noon.**

Here are a few additional pointers for engaging in a meaningful discussion through your responses:

- Agree or disagree and state why. **The "why" is the most important part of the response and should primarily be based on course material and not strictly on opinion or experience.**
- Provide an example of it. Examples can come from content covered in class, from the reading, or from experience, but again should draw **primarily** from course material.
- Relate or link the comment just made to another comment, maybe one the instructor or another student made. Link can, and should, be made to something in the reading material.
- Make a new, but related comment. It needs to be different from what has been said and it is important not to assume that how it relates to the first comment is obvious to others.

Rubric for evaluating online discussions:

Group Discussions Rubric*				
Criteria	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Timely discussion contributions	Response to Chapter Question posted in advance of deadline	Response to Chapter Question posted by deadline	Response to Chapter Question posted by deadline	Responses to Chapter Question not posted by deadline
Demonstration of knowledge and understanding gained from assigned reading	Response is thoughtful and well-informed, clear that readings were understood and incorporated (e.g., cites page numbers, discusses points the author brings up, defines terms, etc.), response expands on and adds to previously posted answers if applicable	Response is thoughtful and well-informed, demonstrates a basic understanding and incorporation of readings into responses, response expands on previously posted answers if applicable	Response lacks thoughtfulness, and/or is primarily opinion-based or demonstrates a lack of understanding and incorporation of readings, response does not expand on previously posted answers if applicable	Response lacks thoughtfulness, it is not evident that readings were understood and/or not incorporated into discussion
Points	6	4	2	0
Timely discussion contributions	Two or more responses to group members' posts well distributed	Two or more responses to group members' posts	One response to group members' posts	No response to group members' posts.

	throughout the week			
Responsiveness to discussion and demonstration of knowledge and understanding gained from assigned reading	Responses to group members' posts are well-informed, clear that readings were understood and incorporated well into responses, more than just opinion or agreement/disagreement	Responses to group members' posts demonstrate readings were understood and incorporated into responses, not just statement of opinion or agreement/disagreement	Responses to group members' posts have questionable relationship to reading material or simply indicate agreement/disagreement	Not evident that readings were understood and/or not incorporated into discussion
Adherence to on-line protocols (see list above)	all on-line protocols followed	1 online protocol not adhered to	2-3 online protocols not adhered to	4 or more online protocols not adhered to
Points	4	3	2	0

***Bonus points may be awarded for exceptional postings; points will be deducted for poor grammar and spelling.**