



RUBRIC - DISCUSSIONS

RUBRIC FOR ONLINE DISCUSSIONS

Purpose

The purpose of online discussions is to enhance your analytical and problem-solving skills through peer-to-peer interaction. During the discussions, you are encouraged to share your experiences, beliefs, and attitudes in conjunction with the facts, research, and resources you have located about the topics.

You should be well informed about the concepts you will be discussing, and therefore, prior to participating in any discussion, you are responsible for reading the textbook and doing your own research on the topics to learn the facts, terms, concepts, principles, and applications needed by the discussion process.

Students are responsible for sharing experiences and backgrounds, as well as perceptions and ideas, so that we can learn in a peer-to-peer manner. The information that you gain from your classmates will help you shape and interpret the information from the text and from the other class resources. Students with more management experience will likely provide mentoring and facilitation during the exchanges. Students are also encouraged to challenge each other - by providing counter-arguments or to request more details about a point, to ensure that others demonstrate with clarity that they really understand the issues.

Discussions will cover the **Comprehension** and **Application** steps of Bloom's Taxonomy of Learning. (Comprehend: translate, restate, discuss, describe, recognize, explain, express, identify, locate, report, review, tell / Application: interpret, apply, employ, use, demonstrate, dramatize, practice, illustrate, operate, schedule, sketch).

Process

For every discussion, you will need to complete three types of tasks.

TASK ONE - ORIGINAL THOUGHTS

The first task is to create at least one, but no more than four, new threads (starting messages) that pose significantly different points than those already offered. These must be completed by at least 3 days before the deadline for the discussion topic - in order for your peers to have an opportunity to reply back to your ideas. It will be to your benefit to contribute your first thought early (to avoid having to read all other messages in order to see what points have not yet been made).

If you are presenting any fact, result, or statements that state a conclusion, you are responsible for properly citing your sources so that the statements can be verified or clarified.

For instance, someone claiming "95% of Metropolitan State students are vegetarians" would likely demand some sort of evidence and source of the survey.

If you are using yourself and your personal experience as the source, then you must make this obvious, such as "based upon my 12 years running a small business, I would estimate that 30% of my employees who were also college students worked more than one job to help pay for tuition and school expenses." You are encouraged to bring your personal work experiences into the discussions.

The length of your initial thoughts should be at least 250 words. While the specific number of words is not a requirement - use this as a guideline for how much writing is expected in order to fully clarify and explain your thoughts in the initial posting. For a point of reference, this section (TASK ONE) is 275 words long.

50% of your score on each discussion is earned in completing the TASK ONE activities on time.

TASK TWO - CARRYING AN IDEA FARTHER

The second task is to make at least two but no more than ten replies (2 to 10 replies) to your peers. Each reply should "carry the conversation and learning farther." The responses to others can answer questions posed, amplify and support points (with evidence and observations), or question and pose counter-arguments to points made by others (with evidence and observations). These thoughts can reflect or support other statements already offered (to build additional evidence to support your view). Each contribution must offer significant additional information (i.e. -- an "I Agree!" message will not earn points). The sum of your replies at a minimum should be an additional 300 words (two 150 word postings would satisfy the criteria).

The remaining 50% of your score for each discussion is earned by competing the TASK TWO activities on time.

TASK THREE - ANSWERING QUESTIONS FROM PEERS

The third task is to answer any questions that your peers have left for you within the discussion. This is a professional courtesy that you are expected to perform, and it is a courtesy you can expect from your classmates as well. Since you may or may not get questions from your peers, this activity is not part of the formal grade from the discussion, but it is something required as part of class activities.

Qualitative Grading of Discussions

The following is a guide for how your writings within the discussions will be graded.

Criteria
Original: Contributions are original, showing new insight or new examples and evidence
Significant: Contributions are clear and easily understood as well as having adequate length to fully communicate the ideas (250 words or more).
Mechanics: Complete sentences being used and writing has few spelling and grammar mistakes. NOTE: use Microsoft Word's built-in spelling and grammar checker to ensure no mistakes and then copy & paste thoughts into the discussion posts. There should be fewer than 4% errors in mechanics (4 words per 100 written).
Citations: Includes citations and/or references for statements of fact, or student clearly indicates that a statement is a personal opinion.
Proper Use of Concepts: writings demonstrate and utilize concepts from the course



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End