

Use Discussion Forum Rubrics

Providing students with a discussion forum rubric helps them understand, and therefore better meet, your expectations for thoughtful participation in these important learning opportunities. To further clarify your expectations, you can provide students with examples of postings that receive full, partial, or no credit, with explanations of why each posting received a different level of credit.

Below is a general rubric for discussion forums. The descriptions and point values can be adjusted depending on the type of discussion.

	Exceeds expectations	Meets expectations	Approaches expectations	Does not include
Timely and active participation	Posts initial response before due date. Posts, replies, and asks questions four or more times throughout the week.	Posts initial response by the due date. Posts, replies, and asks questions two or three times throughout the week.	Posts initial response after the due date. Posts, replies, or asks questions once during the week.	Posts initial response after the due date or does not post response.
Thoughtful and complete response to question(s)	Fully responds to the question(s). Post is supported by connections to the reading and real-life examples.	Fully responds to the question(s). Post is supported by connections to the reading <i>or</i> real-life examples.	Partially responds to the question(s). Provides vague or incomplete connections to the reading or real-life examples.	Does not post a response or response is vague, off topic, or repetitive.
Thoughtful contributions to the learning community	Posts thoughtful questions or novel ideas to peers that generate new ideas and group discussion.	Asks questions or posts thoughtful responses to generate a single peer's response.	Posts minimal or vague responses to peers that do not motivate a response (e.g., "I agree with you, Sherry!").	Does not post a response and/or does not reply to peers.

Recommended Resource

For more examples of discussion board rubrics, see Chen, B., DeNoyelles, A., Thompson, K., Sugar, A., & Vargas, J. (2014). Discussion rubrics. In B. Chen, A. DeNoyelles, & K. Thompson (Eds.), *Teaching online pedagogical repository*. University of Central Florida Center for Distributed Learning. <https://topr.online.ucf.edu/discussion-rubrics/>