

Using Online Discussions for Student-to-Student Interaction

There are many benefits to using online discussion forums for student-to-student interaction. Students can, for example, have more time to react to content in a discussion, they can share challenges and teach each other, and have many other learning experiences as well. Visit these sites for additional, specific benefits. ([“Benefits of a discussion forum”](#) by Dr. Cavanaugh, and [“Benefits of Discussion Boards”](#) by Aurora University.)

How Do I Create Discussion Forums?

This is a useful [You Tube video](#) from the University of Illinois, at Springfield. Or, if you prefer, Blackboard has provided this [tutorial on discussion boards](#).

What are Some Examples of Types of Questions I Should Use in a Forum?

You can create very creative types of questions, or use an idea found here at the ["Successful Strategies for Creating Online Discussion Prompts"](#) by Cengage, the ["The Different Forum types and what they do"](#) by freshdesk, or here at ["Mastering Online Discussion Board Facilitation"](#) by Edutopia.

What are Best Practices I Should Follow in Regards to Netiquette, Facilitation & Assessments?

Revisiting the Edutopia document, with a goal of reading for best practices this time, should be a great help. ["Mastering Online Discussion Board Facilitation"](#) by Edutopia (Specifically, sections 1 and 3 cover these areas.)

Where Can I Find Additional Information?

For additional resources, feel free to browse through the information provided on any of these sites.

["Online Discussion Boards: Strategies to Ease Instructor Burden and Promote Student Learning"](#) by Online Learning Consortium

["The ABCs Of High Quality Online Discussions"](#) by eLearning Industry

["15 Rules of Netiquette for Online Discussion Boards"](#) by Touro College

The Academy for Teaching Excellence’s staff is happy to work with you one-on-one if you have remaining, unanswered questions. Please feel free to contact us at any time via the information below.