

## Discussion post: [title]

Point value: [# points for initial post; #points for reply post]

### Purpose/Description/Instructions *[choose one of these as the heading or create your own]*

What are students doing in this discussion? Why are they doing it, meaning: how does it connect to the content and course objectives? How should they use, apply, or incorporate specific course content in their post(s)? Is this a knowledge-check or assessment?

Make sure to include information on the reply post, and what you want them to “discuss”.

*Remember:* the best discussion questions do not have one or a few “right” answers... consider using a case study or scenario, a link to an article, interview, or video, or something that asks students to form an opinion and support it with course material and/or new material. You can also use the Discussion tool for peer feedback on assignment drafts, as a way to “role play” through a scenario, et al. If you’re asking to students to interact, what is the value to their learning of the interaction? If there is no “interaction value” or a real need to require a reply, consider making the assignment a blog post instead.

### Grading Criteria

Your **initial post** is worth **X** points, and will be graded on the quality of the following components:

- List your evaluation criteria here, or include a clear rubric. Include length (in terms of paragraphs, not pages), if they should reference course material, if they need to cite sources, etc.

Your **reply post** to **[how many peers]** is worth **X** points, and will be graded on the quality of the following components:

- List your evaluation criteria here, or include a clear rubric. Include length, what the content and context of their reply should be, etc.
- Do NOT simply say, “Your reply post must be substantive, and can’t simply state that you agree or disagree.” That does not provide information on what the content of their reply should be. Remember, only require a reply if it adds to student learning; otherwise, consider creating this assignment as a blog post.

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## Submission Information

- Please create your own Thread in the Discussion Forum, “[*name of forum*]”, and type your posts directly in the text editor. Do not attach a separate file with your response. Name your thread as: [**how students should title their post**].
- Tell students how many replies are needed (if you’re using the discussion as a post/reply assignment), and how many days after their initial post their reply post is due. Tell them if you want them to, for example, reply first to someone that has no replies, or how you want to handle replies so that there is a fairly even distribution for each student.
- I strongly encourage you to keep a copy of your response in a Word document in case any technology issues occur with your discussion post. It is always best practice to save a copy of your work as a backup. You may want to type directly in the text editor, then copy and paste into a Word document, etc. before hitting “Submit”. Copying from an MS Word document into the text editor can often be problematic for formatting, but you could also try copying and pasting from a text editor application like Notepad. No extensions will be granted because of technological issues with posting your entry. [**feel free to edit this as you wish**].