

Online Protocols for Discussion Area Postings

For each class discussion you will be required 1) to post your own thoughts on the topic; 2) once you have done that, you will then need to respond to the answers that at least three other classmates give; and 3) to respond to my comments, answering the questions that I ask you.

- Address the question or topic as much as possible, keeping on topic and not letting the discussion stray.
- Postings should be a minimum of one short paragraph and a maximum of two to three paragraphs.
- Postings should be evenly distributed during the discussion period rather than concentrated on one day or at the beginning or end of the discussion time.
- Postings should continue a conversation and provide hooks for additional continuous dialogue. Avoid postings that are limited to "I agree," or "Great idea," and similar other comments. Instead recognize and respond to others' responses to create threads of thought in a discussion, showing how ideas are related and linked. If you agree or disagree with a posting, say why by supporting your statement with concepts from the readings or by bringing in a related example or experience. If you have questions ask for more information or explain what you wish you knew that isn't currently clear to you.
- Use proper language, spelling and grammar, similar in tone and manner of expression to that which you would use within a professional environment.
- Weave into your posting, where possible, related prior personal knowledge gained from experience, prior course work or work experience, discussions, and readings.
- Where possible, incorporate references to the readings that support your statements in your postings, and include the reference and page numbers.