

A New Approach to Online Discussion

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The Perception of Online Discussion

1. Threaded text-based web application
2. Focused on minimum requirements
3. A box to check
4. Not related to skills and objectives

The Problem with Online Discussion

- Connection is not clear
- Expectations are not rigorous or too rigorous
- Lack of on-going engagement
- Questions are not thought-provoking
- Technology roadblocks
- Boredom

Connection

- Problem: Students do not see the connection between what they are doing and the procurement of skillsets.

Expectations

- Problem: Student engagement is low because expectations are:
 - Too rigorous
 - Not rigorous enough
 - Unclear

Lack of On-Going Engagement

- Problem: Students do the bare minimum and do not really engage in the discussions.

Questions Are Not Thought-Provoking

- Problem: Questions do not prompt students to reflect on their experiences, tie to their lives, or form an informed opinion.

Technology Roadblocks

- Problem: Students run into technology issues that dissuades further participation in discussions or low-level participation.

Boredom

- Problem: The students may have multiple classes using text-based threaded discussions and they are burnt out and bored.

Best Practices in Discussions

- Use Open-Ended Thought-Provoking Questions/Prompts
- Focus on Maximum Performance, Not Minimums
- Be Clear In Expectations
- Think Outside of the Typical Pacing
- Think Outside of the Typical Tool or Tool Usage
- Provide for Student Choice in Prompt and/or Technology
- Grade Expeditiously
- Ask Your Students

Resources

- 3 Ways to Deepen Student Engagement in Online Discussions - <https://www.edutopia.org/article/3-ways-deepen-student-engagement-online-discussions>
- 9 Student Engagement Strategies for Online Discussion Forums in 2019 - <https://edservices.wiley.com/9-student-engagement-strategies-for-discussion-forums/>
- A Discussion About Online Discussion - <https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/online-education/discussion-about-online-discussion/>
- Cranney et al., 2011. Instructor's Discussion Forum Effort: Is It Worth It? - https://jolt.merlot.org/vol7no3/cranney_0911.pdf
- Curry & Cook. 2014. Facilitating Online Discussions at a MANIC Pace: New Solutions for an Old Problem - <https://login.libsrv.wku.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=99851956&site=ehost-live>
- Discussion Boards: Valuable? Overused? Discuss. - <https://www.insidehighered.com/digital-learning/article/2019/03/27/new-approaches-discussion-boards-aim-dynamic-online-learning>
- How to Create Engaging Discussion Forums - <https://elearningindustry.com/how-create-engaging-online-discussion-forums>

Resources Continued

- Organic Online Discussions: Saving Time and Increasing Engagement - <https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/online-education/organic-online-discussions-saving-time-and-increasing-engagement/>
- Purdue: Varying Your Discussion Prompts as an Instructional Strategy - https://www.purdue.edu/innovativelearning/supporting-instruction/portal/files/8.1_Varying_your_Discussion_Prompts_as_an_Instructional_Strategy.pdf
- Richardson et al., 2013. Relationships between Types of Question Prompts and Critical Thinking in Online Discussions - https://www.researchgate.net/publication/277712476_Relationship_between_question_prompts_and_critical_thinking_in_online_discussions
- Sample Analytical Rubric 1 - https://courses.dcs.wisc.edu/design-teaching/FacilitationManagement_Spring2016/facilitation-module/4_Online_Discussions/resources/sample_rubrics_for_discussions_Simmons.pdf
- Sample Analytical Rubric 2 - https://www.purdue.edu/innovativelearning/supporting-instruction/portal/files/8.2_Sample_Discussion_Board_Rubric_LDT.pdf
- Sample Holistic Rubric 1 - https://topr.online.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Lowe_2011_discussion_rubric.pdf
- Sample Holistic Rubric 2 - <https://www.unf.edu/cirt/services/id/bestpractices/rubrics.aspx>
- Zhu, 2006. Interaction and cognitive engagement: An analysis of four asynchronous online discussions. - <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s11251-006-0004-0.pdf>

Contact Us

- Email us at citl@wku.edu
- Request to work with us at [CITL's website:](https://www.wku.edu/citl/meeting_request_form.php)
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Important Information

- Mediasite Update.
- CITL Virtual Office Hours: 1/6-1/7 and 1/11-1/13 from 8 AM to 4:30 PM. Link may be found @ <https://www.wku.edu/citl/online-hybrid-teaching/virtual-office-hours.php>
- Student Success Summit: 1/14 Register @ <https://www.wku.edu/successsummit/>
- CITL Session: Revising Course Policies for Equity-Minded and Trauma-Informed Pedagogy: A Qualitative Practical Approach