

Grading Matrix for Discussion Boards

Category	Highest Points	Average Points	Lower Points
Relevance of Original Post	The post applies logically to the topic being discussed. Connections are made between subjects, excellent use of empirical evidence/research (and not personal opinion or anecdotes) is used to back up information	There are a few logical deviations from the discussion prompt; connections are made between subjects, average use of empirical evidence/research (and not personal opinion or anecdotes) is use to back up information.	The post does not adequately address the topic being discussed. No applications or connections between the subjects are made, use of personal opinion or anecdotes are used instead of empirical evidence/research.
Originality Across Posts	The author is using her/his own voice, and adding something unique to the conversation. The author consistently uses sources cited to build new ideas.	The author offers 1-2 original ideas, but mostly repeats the ideas of others.	he author relies on the work of others to make her/his points and does not add anything unique to the conversation.
Thoroughness of Original Post	All of the material in the discussion prompt was addressed.	Most of the material in the discussion prompt was addressed.	Less than half of the material in the discussion prompt was addressed.
Tone Across Posts	A constructive and polite tone is used. Any criticism is done in a helpful, kind way. The post is free of vulgar or insulting language.	There was some nonconstructive, impolite, or unhelpful language, but the posts were, overall, constructive.	The post contains vulgar, insulting, and/or impolite language that is nonconstructive.
Reciprocity for Response Posting	The student responded to at least two other original posters, meeting the basic requirements for length..	The student only responded to one original post, or did not meet the minimum requirements of 3-4 non-repetitive, substantive sentences to two posts.	The student did not respond to anyone else's original post.
Completeness of Response	The student has adequately answered any questions outlined for response posting. The student fully engaged with the discussions in responding.	The student left out questions or critiques on their response post.	The student did not adequately engage with submitting a response post to an original comment.

Language Mechanics Across Posts	Conventional, correct language mechanics are used, with no more than two mistakes	Three to four language mechanical errors were made. (Grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.)	Five or more language mechanical errors were made. (Grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.)
Evidence to Support Arguments Across Posts	The author meets the requirements for citing at least twice, or cites more than twice. Quotes used sparingly if at all; information is well paraphrased, excellent summary of source material to demonstrate understanding of the topic.	The author only included one citation to primary class sources. Quotes sparingly; information is well paraphrased, good summary of source material to demonstrate understanding of the topic.	The author does not support their original claims with evidence from the text/lecture/other primary class sources. Some use to over use of quotations that do not add to the overall quality of the post; lack of paraphrasing, does not demonstrate the student's understanding of the material.