

Discussion Contribution Guidelines for Students

How Can I make my post “substantive?”

Before posting, consider the following ideas:

- Review the posting assignment directions and criteria for grading.
- Ensure that your posting contributes to the overall discussion thread that is being developed. Stay on track by linking back to the lesson objective.
- Read other posts before making your posts. If you have similar ideas you want to share in your post, make connections with what others have already said (e.g., “to build off or add to what so and so wrote”) and be sure to somehow add something new.
- Ask question to help others clarify their ideas and deepen their thinking. Here are some examples of probing questions:
 - What do you think would happen if...?
 - What sort of impact do you think...?
 - How did you decide...?
 - How did you conclude...?
 - What is the connection between... and...?
 - What if the opposite were true? Then what?
- If you reference materials that are not part of the course, be sure to share your sources (e.g., the full title of article or book, link to website).
- If referencing a reading for the class, review your instructor’s expectations for citing work.
- Use professional language with a friendly tone.

I how can I make my comments to my peers meaningful?

Here are suggestions on how to give thoughtful comments on peers' posts:

- Share a related experience or example.
- Connect the post to what we are learning in the course.
- Share related information you've learned in *other* courses.
- Ask thought-provoking questions about their ideas/experiences.
- Disagree (respectfully, of course) with a point that someone else has made.
- Share another resource you have used or come across as you explored the course topics.
- Respond to questions or comments directed to you.

Sources used: Gilpin, S, Murzyn, A. & Schutte, N. (2020). *Discussion rubric and specifications grading*. College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN.