



Discussion Board Scoring

Directions:

One of the difficulties with online courses is that sometimes students aren't sure how exactly they are graded on the discussion boards. This scoring guide will give you clear expectations.

The following is the scoring guide that I as the instructor will be utilizing to evaluate your performance in the discussion section of the course. I firmly believe that the discussion section of the course is integral to your learning this material. Studies have demonstrated that your learning will be enhanced by grappling with this material and attempting to make sense of it through your writing. Furthermore, your comments and responses to your fellow students will aid in this process. Therefore, I expect that you will give thought to these questions and answer with more than a simple "I agree" or "Great response Jane Doe!" My goal is to challenge you with these discussion questions so that you have a higher likelihood of solidifying your learning.

For each topic, I (your instructor) will pose one or more discussion questions. I expect you to support your arguments, give rationale and engage in college-level discourse. ALL discussion board responses

must be finished before the following week's class begins. You must post your first responses early in the Learning Plan so that you give your classmates time to respond to your postings (please note that if you wait until the last day or two of the learning plan to post, your grade will suffer). I will be monitoring the discussion and will make comments as necessary. Please note that I may not respond to each person individually.

As one final piece of advice, I highly recommend that you compose any lengthy responses (especially your initial responses to the discussion questions) within a word processing program such as Microsoft word or notepad. Not only will you be able to easily revise your response, but you can also run a spell check, grammar check, etc. If you highlight and copy, you will be able to paste your response within the appropriate blackboard template.

Discussion Response Scoring Guide

Your overall semester grade will include 200 discussion points. Therefore, I suggest that you pay much attention to this area. Scoring for the discussion board will utilize the following scoring guide to rate your responses. Each Learning Plan will be worth 14 points (13 Learning Plans x 14 points = 182 points). This results in 18 swing points (182 points + 18 points = 200 total points for your grade) at the end that I can choose to give based upon your overall performance.

Scoring Standard

You must achieve a rating of "Yes" on the first two criteria and at least "2" on the remaining criteria to demonstrate competence.

Rating Scale

3: Criterion is demonstrated in an exemplary manner; work is of the highest quality

2: Criterion is demonstrated; work is of good quality

1: Criterion is not demonstrated completely; some work needs refinement

0: Criterion is not demonstrated; work is missing, incorrect, or incomplete

Yes = 1 Point

No = 0 Points

Scoring Guide

Criteria	Ratings			
Learner has posted first responses before 4th day of the learning plan.	1	0		
Learner has responded to at least two of their classmates' discussion items.	1	0		
Learner has accurately addressed all the areas of the discussion questions posed by the instructor.	3	2	1	0
Learner has gone beyond simple responses to demonstrate an understanding of the material.	3	2	1	0
Learner has provided an entry to the discussion questions that elicited a response from fellow students.	3	2	1	0
Written product exhibits correct and appropriate grammar, punctuation, spelling, syntax, and word usage	3	2	1	0

Total Possible Points = 14

