

General Online Classroom Discussion Guidelines

- When participating in an online discussion, you should use formal, standard English and obey all conventions of punctuation and spelling. You should not use abbreviations or symbols that are common to texting or social media.
- You should make certain that you understand the topic and questions asked of you. When in doubt, email your instructor for clarification.
- Your participation in the discussion should show that you revisited the discussion area multiple times. Do not limit your participation to one day or one class period only. By revisiting often, you will be able to see what others are saying and find more opportunities to participate.
- Your comments should go beyond a simple "I agree" or "I disagree." Elaborate on the idea by providing specific reasons for your agreement or disagreement. Ask the students with whom you are interacting for clarification of their ideas.
- Whenever possible, build on others' ideas to create discussion threads.
- Always seek to establish connections beyond the text itself. Try to connect the subject to something from history, other literature, your personal experience, or pop culture.
- Remember that discussions are graded assignments. When you are participating, keep your desired grade in mind!