Discussion Board Expectations

In order to be eligible to receive the maximum possible points, at least three posts must be made in the discussion board for each module. One of the posts (ideally, the initial post) must be the student’s main response to the discussion topic posted by the instructor. Additional posts will be comprised of follow-up correspondence about the discussion question and can be addressed to the instructor or fellow students.

Failure to participate in a discussion board will impact the grade for the course. If outstanding circumstances prevent a student from participating, the student should discuss these factors with the course instructor prior to the end of the week(s) in question. For those students receiving Federal Student Aid, failure to participate within the first two weeks of a course will result in administrative withdrawal.

Points for assignments and discussion board participation (in addition to the three-post minimum) are awarded based on the following criteria. Student work should:

- Reflect understanding of the course objectives.
- Reflect original thought and reflection on the course topics.
- Reflect ideas offered in the assigned course readings and feedback from the instructor.
- Show evidence of thorough reading and analysis of the material being studied and discussed.
- Show evidence that the student distinguishes among different kinds of data (e.g., facts, opinions, assumptions, inferences, and evaluations).
- Show a willingness to test new ideas and risk comments that are not “safe.”
- Reflect a willingness to interact with faculty by asking questions and challenging ideas and conclusions. For example, in the discussion board students should avoid merely making comments such as “That’s right” or “I agree.”
- Be substantiated and be presented persuasively.
Posting your main response to the discussion topic posted by the instructor

The instructor’s main topic is the first post in the discussion board and is denoted by the pale yellow shading. To post a response to the main topic, click the reply button directly next to the main topic.
Posting a response to another’s post
To post a response to another post, whether it is from the instructor or another student, click the reply button directly next to the post.
Viewing follow-up correspondence

The number of follow-up posts to a particular response is denoted in parentheses in the rightmost column. If there is not a number in parentheses, then there are no follow-up responses. You can expand and collapse the responses by clicking the Expand and Collapse button to the left of the post.