



Cambridge College

Undergraduate Discussion Guidelines and Rubric

Your active participation in the discussion topics is essential to your overall success in the course. These discussions offer you the opportunity to express your own point of view, ask clarifying questions, gain insight from your peers and instructor's experience.

A substantive post should provide a reason for your beliefs. In other words, why do you feel the way you feel? Your opinion is acceptable, but you must have a solid rationale for it.

In an online discussion, you will apply the theory of what you have learned, relate that information to facts, and state a conclusion you have reached. Your post may also resolve a problem.

In your responses to your peers, do you agree or disagree with their view and why. Do you have questions based on their posts?

Use references from readings, online sources, and activities that support your position. Be sure to properly cite your references.

Requirements for Discussion Topic Assignments

Initial Post: Due by Thursday 11:59 p. m. EST.

- Posts must be at least 250 words in length or 1-2 paragraphs. Your post must be in response to prompts and/or questions posed each week. Be sure to answer all the questions within each discussion forum.
- Posts need thoughtful responses and discourse that connect to the course material.
- Reference scholarly or peer-reviewed sources to support your discussion points, as appropriate using APA 6th edition citation.
- When composing posts, please consider course content from current and earlier modules, when appropriate.

Response Post: Due by Saturday at 11:59 pm Eastern Time.

For your response posts (1), you must do the following:

- Reply to at least 1 peer outside of your own initial post thread. (Check with the discussion instructions. Some instructors require more than one response post).
- Complete the response posts by Saturday at 11:59 p.m. of your local time zone.
- Demonstrate more depth and thought than simply saying, "I agree" or "You are wrong."

When composing responses, please consider course content from current and earlier modules, when appropriate.



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Discussion Board Rubric				
Category	Excelling	Proficient	Developing	Entry
Points	4	3	2	1
Relevance of Posts	Expresses opinions and ideas in a clear and concise manner with obvious connection to topic. Prompts further discussion of topic.	Opinions and ideas are stated clearly with occasional lack of connection to topic. Frequently posts topics that are related to discussion content	Unclear connection to topic evidenced in minimal expression of opinions or ideas. Occasionally posts off topic; most posts are short in length and offer no further insight into the topic.	Posts topics which do not relate to the discussion content; makes short or irrelevant remarks.
Contribution to The Learning Community	Aware of needs of community; frequently attempts to motivate the group discussion; presents creative approaches to topic.	Frequently attempts to direct the discussion and to present relevant viewpoints for consideration by group; interacts freely.	Occasionally makes meaningful reflection on group's efforts; marginal effort to become involved with group.	Makes no effort to participate in learning community as it develops; seems indifferent.
Promptness and Initiative	Consistently responds to postings; demonstrates good self-initiative.	Responds to most postings; requires occasional prompting to post.	Responds to most postings several days after initial discussion; limited initiative.	Does not respond to most postings; rarely participates freely.
Delivery of the Post	Consistently uses grammatically correct posts with rare misspellings.	Few grammatical or spelling errors are noted in posts.	Errors in spelling and grammar evidenced in many posts.	Does not express opinions or ideas clearly; no connection to topic. Utilizes poor spelling and grammar in most posts; posts appear "hasty."
Research and Citations	Initial post references scholarly or peer-reviewed sources to support your discussion with no errors in citations.	Initial post references scholarly or peer-reviewed sources to support your discussion with few errors in citations.	Initial post references scholarly or peer-reviewed sources to support your discussion with a number of errors in citations	Initial post does not reference scholarly or peer-reviewed sources to support your discussion, or do not use proper citation methods.