Developing Discussions
eLearning Blackboard Learn 9.1 for Faculty

Online discussions in Blackboard benefits students because it allows them to interact with each other in a way that lets them consider and map out their ideas before posting them. It is possible to see thoughtful conversations play out. It also allows you to build a sense of community within the class, which is especially crucial for online courses.

Information about Discussions
Discussions can serve a range of purposes, such as:

- An online meeting place for social interaction among peers.
- An additional medium for collaboration and the exchange of ideas.
- A medium to pose questions about homework assignments, readings, and course content.
- A way to demonstrate the understanding or application of course material.
- A record of discussion that members can review at a later point.
- A graded activity that demonstrates understanding or application of course material.

*Because Discussions are meant to be collaborative, this is not a good place to have students submit individual work if peer commentary is not part of the assessment.

To start building discussions, navigate to the "Discussions" link on your course menu

The discussions page will be shown

To create a forum, start by clicking **Create Forum**

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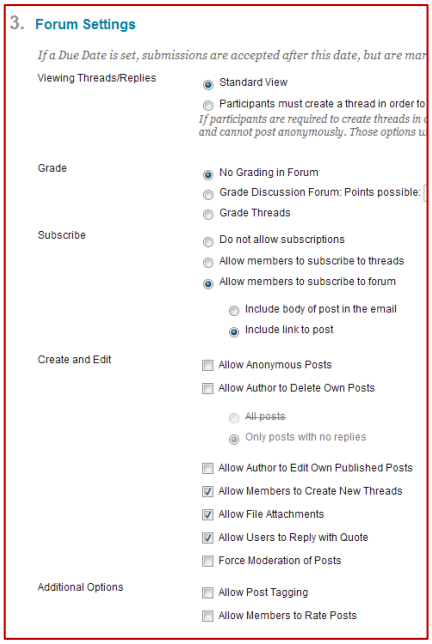
Creating Forums

1. Enter the forum name and description.

2. Select the forum availability.

3. **Forum Settings**
   - **Viewing threads/Replies** is a new feature to SP13 that can be set to force students to create a thread before they're allowed to read the others.
   - **Grade** creates an associated column in the grade center.
     Do not select "Grade Threads"
   - **Subscribe** allows students to sign up for emails with new posts.
   - **Create and Edit** has several settings that let you adjust how students are able to create and edit threads and replies in Blackboard.
     Additional Options for post tagging and ratings.
     i. Post tags are unnecessary for most people.
     ii. Post ratings are a quick way to anonymously rate posts on a 5-star basis.



Click Submit when finished

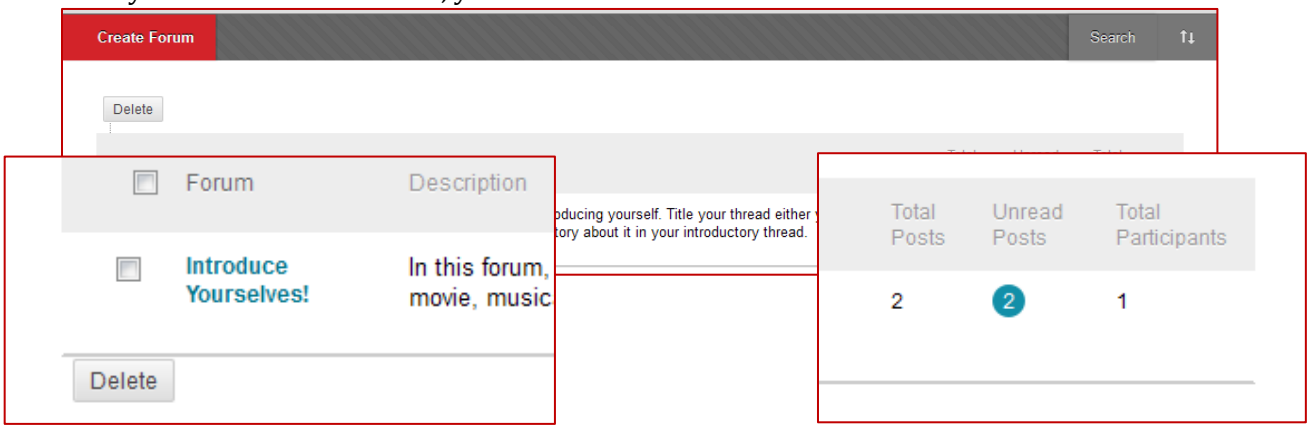
Tip 1: *It's good advice to leave Anonymous posting at OFF, as the steps required to see the poster's name is difficult and lead to slanderous posting.*
Tip 2*: If editing the* ***Viewing Threads/Replies*** *option, it might be wise to not allow the author to edit the posts. Otherwise, they could potentially make a blank post and still copy from another student.*

If you have any additional questions, please contact Design Help, and we'll be happy to help you out!

SUNY Cortland eLearning

Reading Forums

Once you've created the forum, you will see it listed on the forum list.



Here, you'll see the forum name and description on the left and forum statistics on the right.

Clicking the forum name will show you all of the threads in the forum. The screen you will see is similar to one showing all forums.

Clicking the number of unread posts will show all unread posts in the forum or thread.

Threads are laid out differently than in previous versions of Blackboard, separating the leading post and corresponding replies.

Original Post →

Reply to Post →

Reply to reply →