Discussion Board Netiquette

Content and Structure of Discussion Board Posts

- Familiarize yourself with the discussion board rules that the professor has posted.
- Keep discussion postings within the scope of the course material.
- Before you post a message, read all the messages that pertain to the topic, read existing follow-up postings, and do not repeat what has already been said.
- Follow standard rules of grammar and composition when writing.
- Check your work for clarity and quality before posting.
- Use the message subject line to accurately describe your discussion topic.
- Support your statements with facts and clarify your own position.
- Do not use the words or text of others without the proper acknowledgement of the source.
- Break long messages into paragraphs for easier reading.
- Do not use emoticons, acronyms, and “chat” or “instant messaging” jargon.
- Do not use all caps in an online environment, which is considered shouting.

Community Attitude

- Respond to postings with which you disagree in an objective, respective manner. Do not make personal or insulting remarks. Show respect for the opinions and ideas of others.
- Think before you post. If necessary, save a draft of your post and reread it later before making it public.
- Do not use the discussion board to harass others. Posting intentionally hostile and insulting messages is not acceptable.
- Do not include personal information in discussion board postings and refrain from publicizing details about other individuals.
- Do not post advertisements, abusive, or unnecessary messages. Inappropriate and/or offensive language, especially comments that might be constructed as racist or sexist, are not appropriate and will be dealt with on an individual basis.
- Humor and sarcasm can be easily misunderstood in text-based communications and should be avoided.