Discussion Board Netiquette

Content and Structure of Discussion Board Posts

Familiarize yourself with any 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 don't 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.

Don't use the words or text of others without 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, respectful 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 construed 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.