Ensuring Student Originality in Discussion Boards

The Discussion Board Tool in Blackboard is a critical course component that encourages and facilitates student interaction. Faculty typically seek original comments in discussion boards that go beyond an “I agree” response to previous posts. To ensure that students contribute original comments to the initial assignment question, it is recommended that instructors customize their Discussion Board settings.

The following section describes the options for customizing peer postings settings.

The Discussion Forum Settings Include:

- The **Standard View**: Allows students to view all posts to date when they access the Discussion Forum.
- The **Participants must create a thread in order to view other threads in this forum**: Prevents students from seeing the postings of other participants until they have contributed a comment or posting to the forum.
  - When this option is enabled, it automatically disables the **Allow Anonymous Posts**, **Allow Author to Delete Own Posts**, and **Allow Author to Edit Own Posts** options and permits the **Allow Members to Create New Threads** option. With this option, it maximizes the Discussion Board’s originality by preventing students from being pre-exposed to other participant’s ideas.

![Forum Settings](image)