

Module Discussion Assignments (10%)

Each module has a discussion assignment. The discussion is due at the same time that the module is due. Your module discussions will constitute a combined total of 10% of your final course grade.

The readings and lectures provided in the Modules are the focus for each discussion assignment and should be considered before posting your initial response. In order for our online discussions to be effective, it is important that each member of the class participate in discussion during the allotted time frame. For each discussion assignment, you will be responsible for developing an initial post and a response to two of your peers' posts.

Initial Post:

This is a discussion grade. Your post should:

- Answer all question(s) posed by the instructor,
- Be written in your own words,
- Include your original thoughts
- Contain the URL's to any supporting resource(s)
- Optional: if appropriate/relevant, include a question related to the topic for your classmate to respond to

Peer Response Post:

This is a participation grade. Replies to classmates' postings should contribute to the ongoing conversation. Consider the following when composing replies to a classmate:

- Provide an alternative perspective
- Share stories about your own experiences
- Ask questions to further the discussion
- Provide additional resources (websites, books, articles)
- Discuss why you agree or disagree with something

A final guideline for postings, make sure your posted comments are **CRISP**:

Considerate	You may have strong views and will want to express those views. That's great! But remember that others may have equally strong views that are the polar opposite of your views. Feel free to question, challenge, or disagree with anything in the discussion, but do so in a respectful, considerate and constructive way that focuses on ideas rather than individuals.
Reflective	An asynchronous discussion may lack the spontaneity of a live discussion. But this can be an advantage. There is more time to think before responding. Take the time to think about the ideas that have been expressed (in the readings and the discussion) from the perspective of your own experience. Then add your own comments and insights.
Interactive	Remember that you're a participant in a discussion and talk with one another. It may be helpful to cut and paste parts of previous posts into your response. The idea is to be interactive , not just active.
Succinct	Get to the point. Short, focused messages are usually more effective than long comments.
Pertinent	Comments and questions should be related to the discussion topic. There will be times when you want to talk with someone about something unrelated to the topic. That's fine, but this is not the place to do that. When you enter into a weekly discussion, please remember that you're in a classroom, not a chat room.

Grading Rubric

The grading rubric located below will assist you in understanding how your instructor and TA's will be evaluating your response to the topic questions (initial posting) and your peers (responses to peer posts). **NOTE:** This is a discussion/participation grade. Only 1/2 of the total possible points can be earned if you only reply to the topic questions and fail to respond to two classmates.

	Excellent	Good	Requires improvement
Initial post (Discussion)	Entry is thoughtful, thorough and specific. Author draws on relevant course material where appropriate. Author demonstrates original thinking. Entry corresponds to assignment instructions.	Entry is relevant but may be vague or generic. Author could improve the response by making it more specific, thoughtful or complete.	Entry is unclear, irrelevant, incomplete or demonstrates a lack of understanding of core concepts.

Response to peers (Participation)	<p>Replies are substantive and reflect that the student has read and thought about the assigned reading and ideas posted by the person they are replying to.</p> <p>Replies contribute to ongoing conversations and moves the conversation forward. Student replies to questions or comments or asks new questions or comments.</p>	<p>Replies are somewhat thoughtful and reflect that the student has reviewed the assigned reading but has not thought about the substantive content. Connections are made with other student postings and are topic-related but the response is limited.</p> <p>Replies elaborate on an existing post with further comment or observation but does not really contribute to the ongoing conversation or move the conversation forward.</p>	<p>Replies lack substance and do not reflect any reading or thought about the reading or additional sources. Limited, if any connection to the module topic. Vague generalities or short ‘I agree ...’ responses.</p> <p>The reply does not contribute to the ongoing conversation or move the conversation forward.</p>
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References:

<https://www.utica.edu/academic/Assessment/new/rubrics%20for%20discussion.pdf>

<https://www1.udel.edu/janet/MARC2006/rubric.html>

https://florida.theorangegrove.org/og/file/c386c8ed-66cd-420f-b004-71a6ffc9bb60/1/DiscussionBoard_Gd_rubric_CGS1555.pdf