

### **Discussion Board Posts**

- A space where students and professors can have further conversations about course content outside of the classroom setting.
- Posts typically range from 250 to 400 words and require a response to a prompt.
- Compose your post in a word document before typing it on the post. This allows you to save your written work and avoid potential computer errors.
- Read your syllabus or consult your professor for specific discussion post guidelines.

### **How to write a discussion board post:**

1. Read the prompt and understand the questions being asked.
2. Ask yourself "What do I think of the topic?"
3. Answer each question directly.
4. Form your thesis by deciding the main claims and reasons for the idea you will discuss.
5. Support your thesis by using source materials and quotations as needed.
6. Format your post with an introduction and conclusion.
7. Use proper citations.
8. Promote peer interaction.

### **Responses:**

- Strive to bring up new, interesting comments. Offer an inventive reason why you agree or disagree with a discussion post. Always be respectful and professional.

### **Basic Online Post Guidelines:** *(From San José State University Writing Center)*

- Write concise responses with cited information from credible sources.
- Provide support for your stance on a subject.
- Acknowledge and respect that others have different opinions.
- Use proper grammar.
- Provide support for your stance on a subject.
- Respond with a comment that is on topic.

### **Review your discussion post before posting:**

- Is my main idea clear and relevant to the topic of discussion?
- Does my response demonstrate evidence that I have read and thought critically about required readings?
- Have I proposed a unique perspective that can be challenged by my classmates?
- Do I support my claim with required readings or other credible outside sources?
- Have I used a scholarly tone, avoiding jargon or language that is overly conversational?
- Have I proofread my response for grammar, style, and structure?



## APSU Writing Center

### Discussion Board Post Outline

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##### Discussion Post Title:

- **Topic Sentence:**
  - **Supporting Evidence:**
  - **Supporting Evidence:**
  - **Supporting Evidence:**
- **Topic Sentence:**
  - **Supporting Evidence:**
  - **Supporting Evidence:**
  - **Supporting Evidence:**
- **Concluding Sentence:**
- **References/Citations:**

#### References

Lai, S. (2016). *Do's and Don'ts of Online Posts*. San José State University Writing Center.  
<https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/docs/handouts/Dos%20and%20Donts%20of%20Online%20Posts.pdf>

Regent Writing Lab (2021). *Discussion Board Posts*. Regent University.  
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University Writing & Speaking Center. (n.d.). *Writing a successful discussion board post*. University of Nevada, Reno. <https://www.unr.edu/writing-speaking-center/student-resources/writing-speaking-resources/writing-a-successful-discussion-board-post>

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<https://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/assignments/discussionpost>