

Blackboard 8: Discussion Board

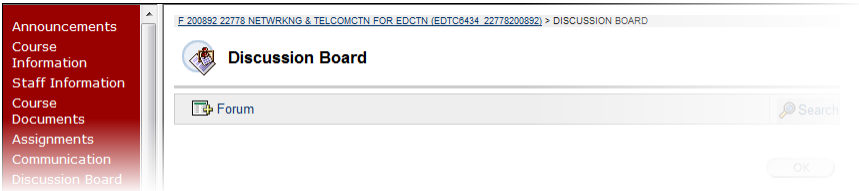
For existing users of Blackboard interested in having students interact in an asynchronous discussion forum.

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Objectives

Participants in this workshop will learn how to:

- Set up a discussion forum
- Facilitate an online discussion
- Assess student contributions
- Improve efficiency when reading and responding to student messages




The screenshot shows the Blackboard 8 interface. On the left is a red navigation menu with the following items: Announcements, Course Information, Staff Information, Course Documents, Assignments, Communication, and Discussion Board. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: F 200892 22778 NETWORKING & TELCOMCTN FOR EDCTN (EDTC2434 22778200892) > DISCUSSION BOARD. Below this is a 'Discussion Board' header with a globe icon, and a 'Forum' section with a document icon and a search box. An 'OK' button is visible at the bottom right of the forum section.

SET UP A DISCUSSION FORUM

First Time - Questions to ask yourself

- Why do I want to use an online discussion?
- Is the discussion board the right tool?
- Will students be required to participate?
- Will students be divided into groups?
- Will discussion participation be assessed?
- How many discussions will you have?
- How long will discussions last?
- Should all forums be available at the beginning?
- Will you provide the thread topics?
- How will you participate?

Steps for setting up discussion forum in Blackboard

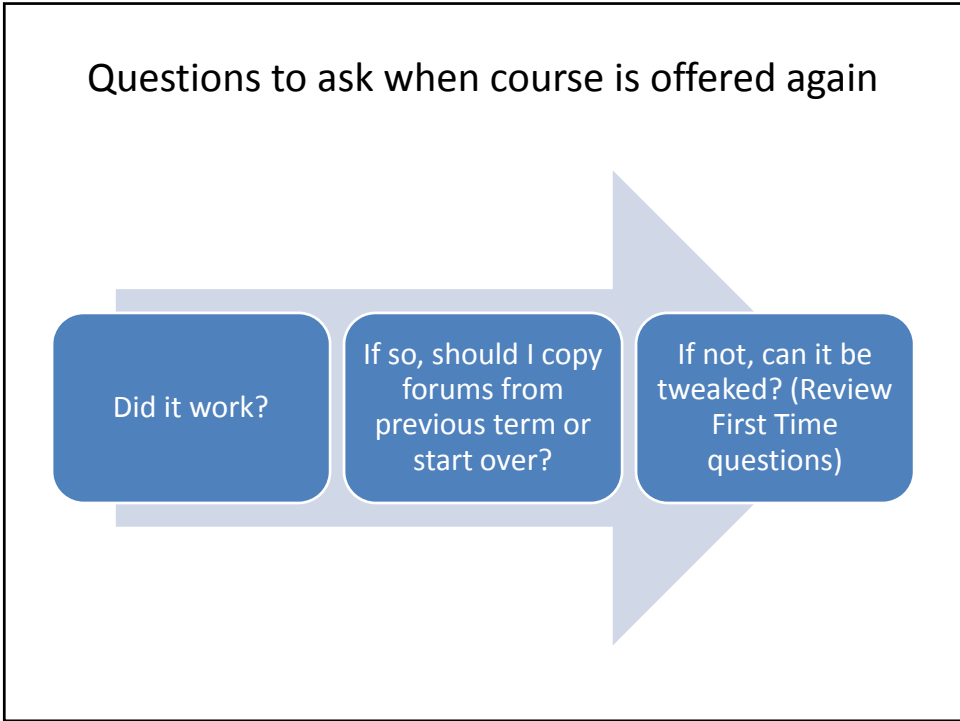
1. Log into your course site.
2. Click Discussion Board link in the navigation menu.
3. Click the Add Forum button.  Forum
4. Type a title and description for your forum.
5. Determine availability
6. Check appropriate Forum Settings (next slide)
7. Click the Submit button.

Note: To limit who has access to a forum once it has been created, click the Manage button to the right of the name of the forum.

Forum Settings

3 Forum Settings

- Allow anonymous posts
- Allow author to remove own posts
 - All posts
 - Only posts with no replies
- Allow author to modify own published posts
- Allow post tagging
- Allow users to reply with quote
- Allow file attachments
- Allow members to create new threads
- Subscribe Do not allow subscriptions
 - Allow members to subscribe to threads
 - Allow members to subscribe to forum
 - Include body of post in the email
 - Include link to post
- Allow members to rate posts
- Force moderation of posts
- Grade No grading in forum
 - Grade Forum: Points possible:
 - Grade threads



Reply to Post

Message [Hide Parent Post](#)

Author: David Wicks
Date: Friday, January 18, 2008 2:00:56 PM PST
Subject: video
[video_1](#)

* Subject: RE: video

Message

Normal 3 Times New Roman B I U S x₂ x² [Rich Text Editor Icons]

FACILITATE AN ONLINE DISCUSSION

Instructor Participation

Encourage and model good netiquette

Establish social presence by being an active participant

Dialogue instead of monologue – Avoid thread killings

Encourage student interaction

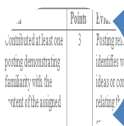
Provide a discussion summary

ASSESS STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Assessment options



Instructor assessment



Self assessment



Peer assessment



TIPS FOR BECOMING MORE EFFICIENT

Make good use of your time

- Schedule a set time for reading and responding to posts
- Have students self-assess discussion contributions
- Use Unread link to keep up with discussions
- Use Collect feature to take forums with you when you are off-line
- Use Grade Center and Performance Dashboard to track and communicate with loafers

Comments or Questions?



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