

Handout by Tom Molanphy

Tips on How to Encourage Interaction in Discussion Rooms

- NASAD accreditation requirements (on back)
- Copying and pasting exemplary student comments
- Directing questions to particular students
- Positive reinforcement and encouragement in the Discussion Room/E-mail students praise when they've participated well
- ESL issues/ reliance on OWL, support team
- Opening Discussion Rooms in a timely manner, even early (Sunday night)
- Responding to each student directly and encouraging student to enter the discussion early (NASAD requirements of beginning and end of discussion)
- Summer suggestions?
- Does what work on site in discussion work on line? (For example, online students can print up and read discussions for more thoughtful responses.)
- Create a student lounge, if not provided

Students are required to participate in their class discussion on a regular and frequent basis. Each student should address individual comments to both the instructor and fellow students for each topic.

At a minimum there should be at least one comment addressed to the instructor and a second comment addressed to a fellow student for all assigned discussion topics. Students should participate both at the beginning of the assigned time period and at the end of the time period for each discussion topic.

More interaction is better and this is reflected in the class grading. Class participation in the discussion area is required and makes up a significant part of your grade.

Tip: It is often helpful to search the web and find other web sites that address the information being discussed in a particular topic and share it with the class. Following these guidelines will help us all to have a much richer learning experience.

Class Email: Please check your class email every time you logon! You can send an email to the instructor or anyone in the class by using the class email in the gray box at the top of your class pages. Unless otherwise directed, please use this email system to send you assignments to me. If you have questions about the subject matter of the class, please do not ask them by email, ask them in the discussion area to allow your fellow students to benefit from the question and answer.

Check Announcements: Please check your announcements every time you log into your class. You can do this when you first logon by clicking on “communication” in the left navigation, and then clicking on “announcements” in the drop down menu.

Quizzes: Most modules have a quiz link on the last session page. You are required to complete your quizzes on the dates of the module assigned.