

## FORUM DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

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You are expected to post an original reflection and then reply to at least two of your colleagues. Simply saying "I agree" is not considered a substantive contribution! You must support your position or add somehow to the discussion when logging on. Try to relate the topic to your own experience if possible.

Forum discussion questions will be released every **Saturday** for the following week. Kicking off a discussion means posting some of your reflections and thoughts about the readings and/or assignments. Remember that if you cite the readings or another post, please include your references and page numbers so that we can all follow your thinking. Your **initial post** should be a minimum length of **100-250 words** with a **response post** about **50-100 words**. Initial forum postings should be entered by **Wednesday** of each week in order to allow sufficient time for responses. Initial responses to peer postings should be by **Friday** of each week. The rubric to guide your forum posts is available below.

These guidelines are based on those modeled by: Palloff, R. & Pratt, K. (2003). *The Virtual Student: A Profile and Guide to Working with Online Learners*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: A score of 2-3 points for a post equates to one hour of forum participation. No stipend will be awarded for lower scores.**

### MOODLE FORUM POST RUBRIC

Criteria	Outstanding 3 Points	Proficient 2 Points	Basic 1 Point	Below Expectations 0 Points
Critical Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rich in content</li> <li>▪ Full of thought, insight, and analysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Substantial information</li> <li>▪ Thought, insight, and analysis has taken place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Generally competent</li> <li>▪ Information is thin and commonplace</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rudimentary and superficial</li> <li>▪ No analysis or insight is displayed</li> </ul>
Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clear connections:</li> <li>▪ To previous or current</li> <li>▪ To real-life situations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New ideas or connections</li> <li>▪ Lack depth and/or detail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Limited, if any connections</li> <li>▪ Vague generalities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No connections are made</li> <li>▪ Off topic</li> </ul>
Uniqueness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New ideas</li> <li>▪ New connections</li> <li>▪ Made with depth and detail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New ideas or connections</li> <li>▪ Lack depth and/or detail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Few, if any new ideas or connections</li> <li>▪ Rehash or summarize other postings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No new ideas</li> <li>▪ "I agree with..." statement</li> </ul>
Timeliness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All required postings</li> <li>▪ Early in discussion</li> <li>▪ Throughout the discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All required postings</li> <li>▪ Some not in time for others to read and respond</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All required postings</li> <li>▪ Most at the last minute without allowing for response time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some, or all, required postings missing</li> </ul>
Stylistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Few grammatical or stylistic errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Several grammatical or stylistic errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Obvious grammatical or stylistic errors</li> <li>▪ Errors interfere with content</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Obvious grammatical or stylistic errors</li> <li>▪ Makes understanding impossible</li> </ul>

Rubric based on [Middle Tennessee State University Model](#)