

## Online Discussion Rubric

### Protocol for posting threads and contributing to an online discussion:

- To obtain full marks for participation/discussion you must make **at least one substantive contribution** to each discussion forum within the context of the discussion, and you must post **at least one reply** to another contribution.
- A **substantive contribution** should be a thoughtful reflection on at least one aspect of the question posed or identified topic. It may initiate a line of discussion or respond to someone else's contribution (e.g., adding your own perspective to it).
- Postings should be a minimum of one short paragraph.
- Avoid postings that are limited to 'I agree' or 'great idea', etc. If you agree (or disagree) with a posting then say why you agree by supporting your statement with concepts from the readings or by bringing in a related example or experience.
- Make sure you reference all sources in your postings.
- Address the questions as much as possible (don't let the discussion stray).
- Try building on others responses to create threads.
- While exhaustive research is not required for participation, your efforts should extend beyond a simple search of the Web or a reiteration of the topic from a textbook. Try to bring in related prior knowledge (work experience, prior coursework, readings, etc.).
- Use proper etiquette (proper language, typing, etc.).

### Rubric for evaluating online discussions:

Discussion Grading Criteria			
Performance	Poor <i>(less than 4 points)</i>	Acceptable <i>(4 – 7 points)</i>	Good <i>(8 - 10 points)</i>
<b>Quality of posting</b>	Less than required number of postings.	Postings reflect the reading but do not show outside source	Postings reflect the readings and outside information with proper outside source material citation.
<b>Quality of reply</b>	Does not further any discussions	Participates, but does not post anything that encourages others to respond to the posting. Participates with the required number of postings.	Response relevant to posting and supports position with factual information.
<b>Understanding of reading and outside source material</b>	Does not respond to the question posted or with minimal effort (i.e. "I agree with Bob").	Responds to the question posted but does not clearly reflect the assignment	Responds to question posted and demonstrates understanding of material and outside source material and properly cites information.
<b>Demonstrate critical thinking</b>	Dos not analyse issues. Re-states issues from readings.	Analyzes issues from multiple perspectives. Fails to make an evaluation of the issues being analysed.	Analyzes issues from multiple perspectives, while establishing comparisons. Makes judgements, supported by credible sources.

**Performance rating:**

- Poor = performance does not meet the expectations stated in the outcomes. It will qualify for the low tier of the maximum assigned points per action.
- Acceptable = performance meets the expectations stated in the outcomes. It will qualify for the median tier of the maximum assigned points per action.
- Good = performance is above the expectations stated in the outcomes. It will qualify for the upper tier of the maximum assigned points per action.