

This is a collection of the questions asked during the "Creating Online Engagement with Discussion Forums" event held Thursday, June 25, 2020. Some of these questions were answered during the session, some were answered afterwards.

To see upcoming events, please visit the OTLT events page:
<https://teach.its.uiowa.edu/events/upcoming>.

If you have any questions, please contact the ITS Help Desk: Email: its-helpdesk@uiowa.edu

Q: The recording is going to be available right? If I want to go back and recheck things?

A: It is! I have a page up here already <https://teach.uiowa.edu/recorded-webinars>

Q: How do you set up discussion groups?

A: Groups are set up in the People area of your ICON course site. Here is how you can create discussion groups <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-13039-415264224>

Q: Is it possible to grade the initial posting and the responses separately?

A: That's a great question. Unfortunately, there isn't that level of granularity in the grading area. If you wanted to use a rubric to grade your discussion, you could use one criterion row for the initial posting, and an additional row for the responses.

If you were using a rubric you could define grading criteria for the initial post and for the replies separately.

Q: I have problems with peer reviews--when I set up a rubric for me to grade, students are also given that rubric to "assess" peers-- It confuses students and I'd rather not have that

A: Hi, I'm a little lost in reading your question - are you creating a discussion forum with the peer review requirement on?

Yes, that's right--a discussion forum with peer reviews

A: I would say off the top of my head that you could decide to either turn off the peer review requirement OR don't attach the rubric in the discussion forum.

There is not a way to only have a rubric that you can see that is not visible to students doing peer reviews.

Q: Any suggestions for interacting with students during a discussion? My goal is to show my willingness to engage with them.

A: One of my favorite ways to interact in a discussion forum is to post animated gifs (and appropriately including alt-text, of course!)

Q: How do you ensure (motivate) students to post by the original due date, which allows sufficient time for others to post? Are you penalizing if not done in time?

Q: Since the discussion board only has one deadline, it'll show up as "late" if they posted after the deadline. But there's no way to assign a separate deadline for responses, is there?

A: Having multiple due dates on a discussion has been a feature request for a long time - one idea from the Canvas Community is to use an ungraded assignment to stand in as the 2nd deadline

^^ just a placeholder assignment, with no submission possible, as to not confuse students where to post

Q: Does using the prompt as an assignment and the response as a separate assignment then put it on the students' calendars and to do lists?

A: Yes, that's the goal. You'd have to be sure to include the due date on both assignments to be sure it shows up on the calendar & to do list.

If it's possible to get a handout with the process of creating the ungraded assignment, that would be great. I can visualize what you are describing, but I am not positive I can execute.

Further resources and information:

<https://teach.its.uiowa.edu/events/upcoming>

<https://teach.uiowa.edu/ICON/FAQ/guestaccount>

<https://its.uiowa.edu/contact>

SITA@uiowa.edu