

Using Discussion Boards in Blackboard to Support Face-to-Face or Online Courses
13 March 2008

Discussion Board Question Creation Techniques

Some Guidelines for Exemplary Posting and discussion board creation:

Indicator	Defined
<i>Exploratory</i>	Recognition of some confusion/curiosity or perplexity as a result of a problem/issue arising out of an experience/course readings; posing a problem and enticing others to take a step deeper into it.
<i>Invitational</i>	Inviting others to think together, to ponder, to engage by asking questions, requiring information, opinion or approval.
<i>Argumentation</i>	Expressing reasoning (with analogies, causal, inductive and/or deductive reasoning etc) to trigger discussion
<i>Critical</i>	Challenging or counter-challenging statements/ideas proposed by others OR playing devil's advocate
<i>Heuristic</i>	Expressing discovery (similar to —A ha! moments or expressions like —I find it!); directing others' attention to a newly discovered idea.
<i>Reflective</i>	Examination of past events, practices (why/how they happened) or understandings in relation to formal content
<i>Interpretive</i>	Interpretation of formal content through opinions that are supported by relevant examples, facts, or evidence.
<i>Analytical</i>	Interpretation of content through the analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of others' understanding
<i>Informative</i>	Providing information from literature and relating it to course content/topic of discussion
<i>Explanatory</i>	Chain of connected messages intended to explain/make clear OR statements serving to elaborate on the ideas suggested in previous posts
<i>Implicative</i>	Assertions that call for action OR statements whereby participants formulate a proposal/decision about how to achieve a certain end based on the insights they gained from the course readings/discussions

Be wary of the following types of posts and questions that create these types of post, as they do not result in positive discussion board outcomes

Indicator	Defined
<i>Affective</i>	Short posts that ONLY contain a statement of personal feelings (likes & dislikes) Short posts that ONLY contain appraisal (praising & thanking someone) Questions or comments that add social presence to the discussion but do not contribute new information.
<i>Judgmental</i>	Short posts that ONLY contain brief statements of agreement without elaboration Short posts that ONLY contain brief statements of disagreement without elaboration.
<i>Experiential</i>	Posts that only contain personal experiences, narratives, descriptions that are not followed by reflection
<i>Reproductional</i>	Repeating/reproducing the ideas mentioned/proposed in the previous posts without elaboration
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	Opinions that seem to be off topic OR statements regarding technical problems/course logistics

From Uzuner, S. (2007). Educationally valuable talk: A new concept for determining the quality of online conversations. *MERLOT Journal of Online Learning and Teaching* 3(4). Retrieved 4 March 2008 from <http://jolt.merlot.org/vol3no4/uzuner.htm>