

Digital Discussion Tips

Effective Online Discussion Prompts

- Provoke a variety of valid responses
- Encourage participants to support their opinions with reasons
- Require deep thinking about the content

Setting up Online Discussions

- Provide instruction in appropriate responses, such as keeping postings focused and brief, looking for shared opinions, disagreeing agreeably, and asking clarification questions.
- Model quality responses.
- Teach students to create and change subject lines to give readers an idea of the topic of a post.
- Require multiple postings by each student.
- Provide guidelines or assessment instruments, linked from the discussion, if possible, for students to use to assess their own comments.
- Set up multiple due dates, so that students have posts to respond to.

Facilitating Online Discussions

- Visit the discussion frequently to stay informed about the interactions
- Deal with mild issues in a general way by posting general reminders.
- Refrain from expressing personal opinions.
- Make a point of drawing attention to thoughtful posts and good questions.
- Deal with serious issues in individual meetings, face-to-face, if possible,