

Self-Grading Guide for Online Discussions

The discussion forums in this course are key learning opportunities for you and your peers. To make the most of this opportunity, it is important that each member of our learning community contributes actively and thoughtfully. In order to help you reflect on your participation and contributions to our discussions, please complete the self-grading guide below for each week’s discussion forum(s).

Step 1: Honestly reflect on each statement below, and check “yes” or “no” as appropriate.

Statement	Yes	No
I. Timely and Active Participation		
(a) I posted on or before the due date for initial response.		
(b) I posted at least three times throughout the week.		
II. Thoughtful and Complete Responses to Questions		
(c) I fully responded to the question(s).		
(d) I supported my ideas with connections to the reading and/or real-world events supported by examples.		
(e) I enhanced the discussion by making connections to previous course content and/or presenting novel ideas and insights.		
III. Thoughtful Contributions to Learning Community		
(f) I posted thoughtful questions or responses to my peers’ posts that extended our conversation.		
(g) I posted thoughtful questions or novel ideas that generated more group discussion.		

Step 2: Count the number of statements to which you responded “yes,” and circle the category below that best describes your participation. Read the instructor feedback.

“Yes” Count	0-2	3-4	5+
Level	“Hesitant Contributor”	“Developing Contributor”	“Effective Contributor”
Instructor Feedback	Please try to contribute more to the next discussion! If you have any concerns about participating, please discuss them with me.	Good work! See if you can challenge yourself to add one or two more thoughtful comments or questions next time.	Great job! Please continue participating at this level in future classes.

Step 3: What is one thing you plan to do different next time to enhance your learning from discussion board participation?