



## Participating in Discussion Board Forums

Discussions help deepen your understanding of course subjects and contribute to your grade. They are also an opportunity to share your perspective, gain insights from others, and demonstrate what you've learned.

<b>Post Early</b>	Research shows that learners who post early are more likely to complete the courses and their degree programs. If a Discussion Board Forum requires you to Create a Message and post two replies within a week's time, create your initial discussion thread early in the week. Make sure your initial post is substantive and thoughtful. Allow yourself a day or two to review other's posts before replying and take some time for reflection. Always check your initial posts for replies from other course participants and make sure to reply to posts as necessary.
<b>Substantive Posts</b>	Your discussion posts should be thoughtful, comprehensive, and easy to read. Each post should reflect your understanding of the discussion board forum topic and contain information to support your point of view. The acronym G.R.E.A.T. describes the essential components of an effective discussion post: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grammar, spelling, and organization of ideas makes your post more effective.</li><li>• Relevant information to the readings, assigned questions, or ongoing discussion.</li><li>• Engaging for other learners through your own interpretation of the topic or issue.</li><li>• Addition of new information or generation of new questions.</li><li>• Timely posting so that learners and instructors have the opportunity to respond.</li></ul> Your posts should meet your instructor's requirements. Review the faculty expectations for each course and familiarize yourself with the instructor's discussion participation requirements. If you have specific questions, please contact your instructor.