Tips for the Online Discussion Board

For Faculty and Students

Faculty Tips

- **Give Clear Expectations**
  Make sure to give clear expectations on the number of posts and replies, the deadlines for each type of post, and the grading guidelines. Having a rubric for posts that lays out the specific guidelines for grading is helpful.

- **Select Discussion Leaders/Moderators**
  Selecting a discussion leader each week helps to keep the conversation going. Student moderators allow the class to engage more with their peers.

- **Guide Towards Learning Objectives**
  It’s important to prompt discussions that initiate conversations around the learning outcomes. This helps to ensure that students are mastering the material.

Student Tips

- **Short, Clear, Purposeful**
  Write one to two well thought out paragraphs that make one point and use evidence to support. Keep your post concise since others will be reading through multiple posts.

- **Ask Questions**
  Ask questions to other students to learn of their views and insights. Ending a post with an open-ended question can help facilitate more lively discussions and replies.

- **Support Your Opinions**
  It’s encouraged to write about your opinion, but when writing discussion posts, try to use facts and identify the sources to support it. Sharing different ideas and perspectives helps to foster in-depth conversations.

- **Be Respectful**
  Your peers may have differentiating opinions, and it’s important to be open to other’s perspectives. If you’re feeling emotional about a post, take a moment to process before responding. If you see something inappropriate, notify the instructor.

Wentworth Online

online@wit.edu  @WIT Online

https://sites.wit.edu/wit-online/  @online_wit