

Top Tips for Using Discussion Boards in Online Learning:

Advice and Guidance for Students.

Online discussion boards allow students and staff to share and learn from each other through posting to a forum. Unlike seminar or tutorial class discussions, online discussion boards are an asynchronous activity; not everyone in the class is contributing to the discussion at the same time. This enables participants to respond and build upon each other's thoughts and exchange ideas and knowledge over a specific time period.



Discussion Boards: Good Practice Guidelines.

Keep these points in mind when contributing and posting to discussion boards in your MyAberdeen academic courses. Remember to:

-  Write courteously, clearly, and concisely, noting any word limits.
-  Reply to posts by analysing and explaining your response.
-  Add to the depth and breadth of the discussion.
-  Post as early as possible to help the discussion flow.
-  Avoid dominating the discussion.
-  Use in-text citations, if relevant.
-  Be positive and constructive in posts.
-  Avoid posting irrelevant content.
-  Broaden the discussion by asking a new, related question.
-  Avoid stating only "I agree" in your posts.

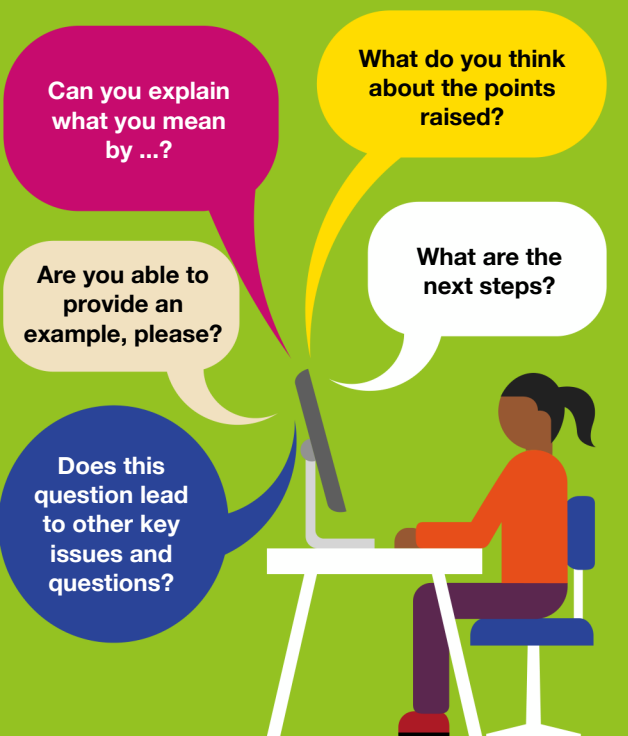
Key Benefits of Discussion Boards.

Online discussion boards enable students to connect digitally, academically, and socially with their peers, lecturers, and tutors to:



Questioning Techniques.

To help promote peer-interaction and discussion board learning, there is a range of questioning techniques available, such as:







Syntax.

In your discussion board posts aim to:

- Check your punctuation, spelling, and grammar.
 - Explain any professional acronyms.
 - Use clear language.
 - Be tactful and kind.
- Avoid using all CAPITAL LETTERS as it implies you are shouting!

Ask for Help.

Remember facial expressions are missing in the online environment. So, ask if you are:

-  Confused about the discussion topic.
-  Puzzled by the word count.
-  Uncertain about the role of discussion board postings in retaining your class certificate.
-  Unsure about the required engagement for course assessment.

