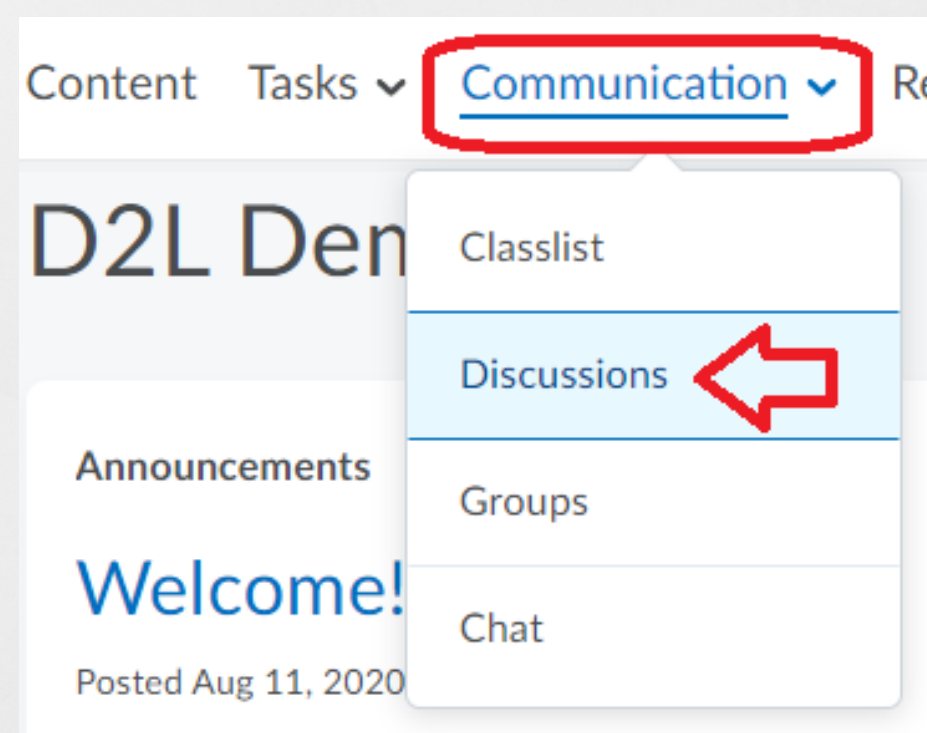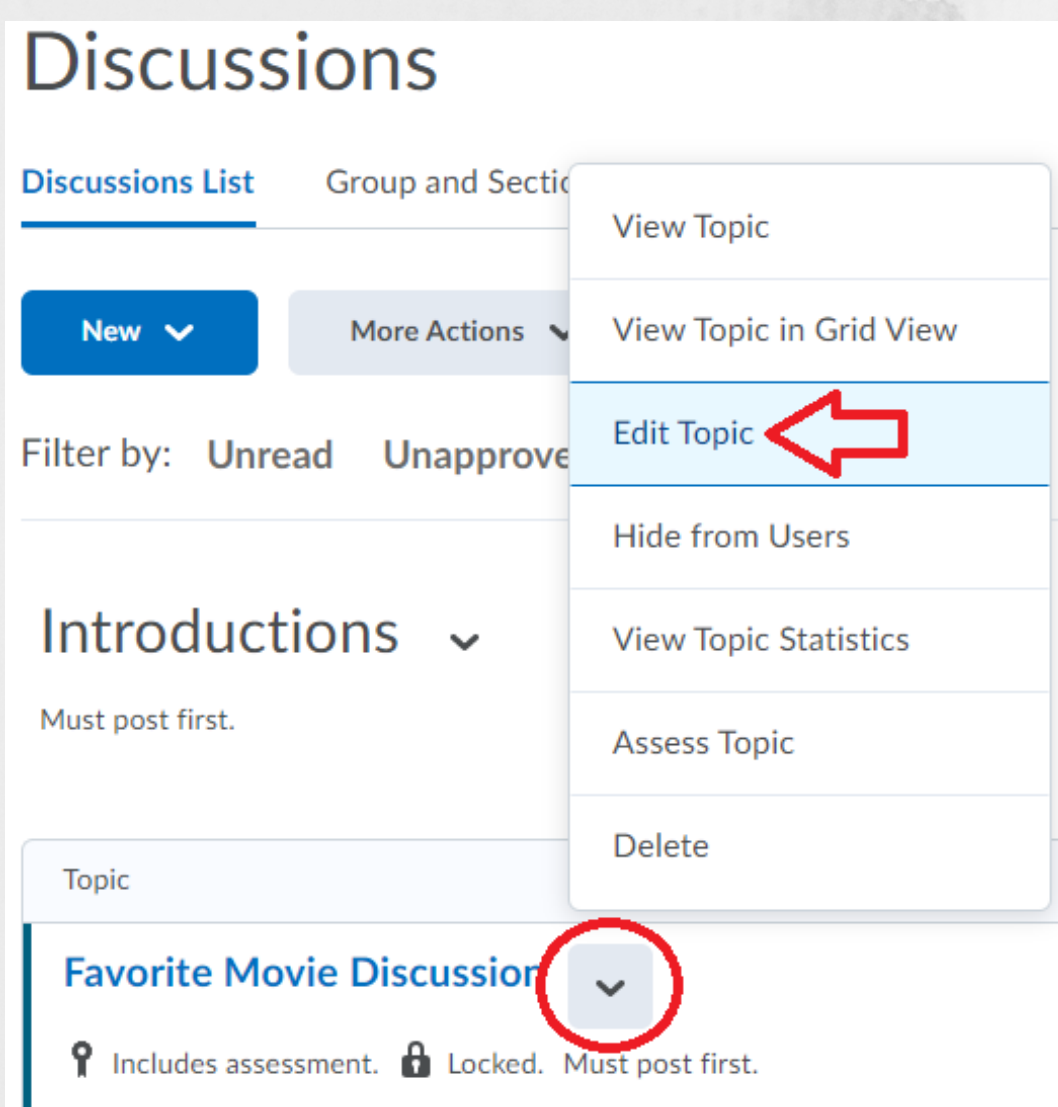# D2L: Assessing Discussions

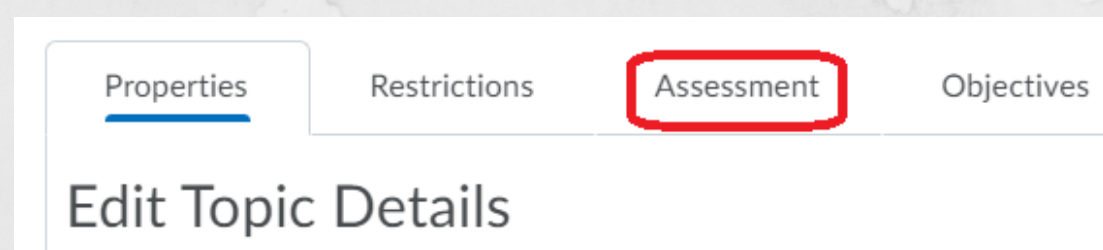**Linking Discussions to Grades**
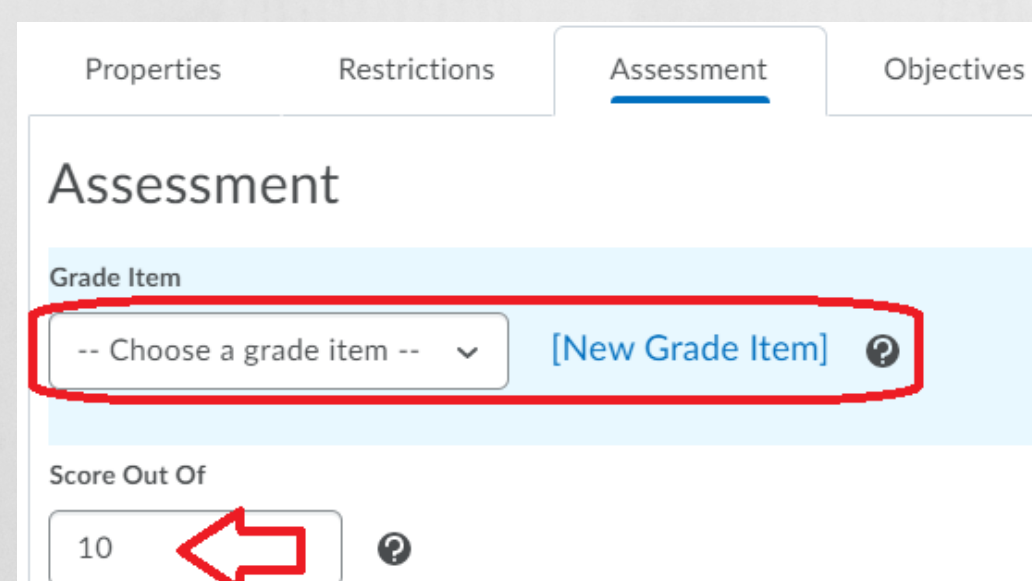● Open the Communication Menu and select **Discussions**.

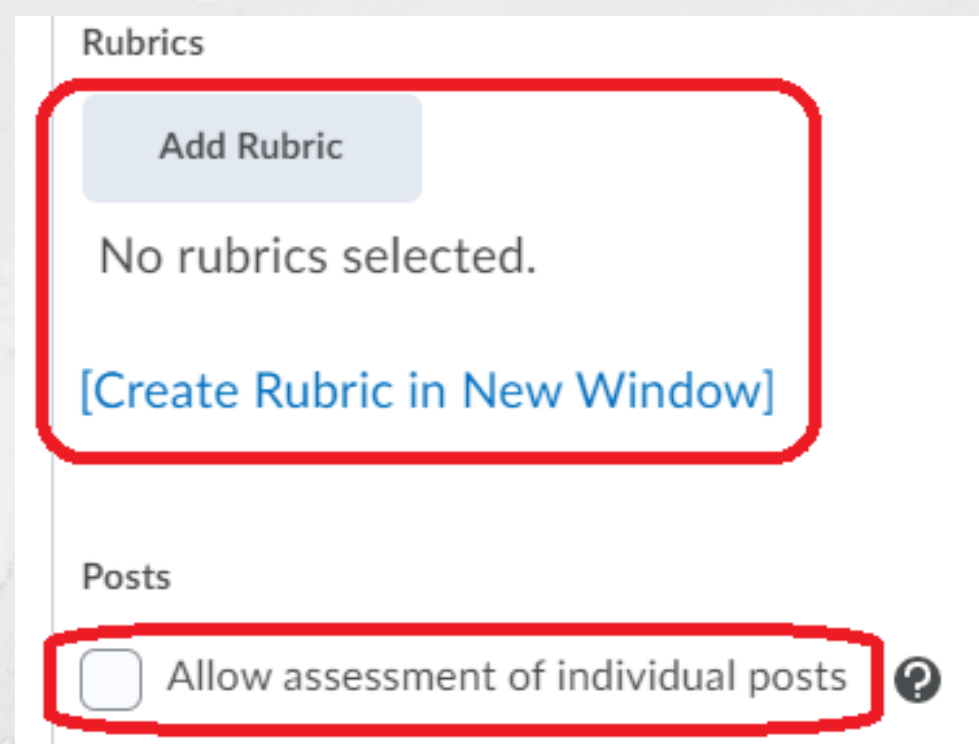● Open the menu for a Topic, then select **Edit Topic**.

● On the next page, select the **Assessment** tab.

● You can choose to link to an existing grade item or create and link to a new one. Enter the points value of the Topic in the **Score Out Of** field.
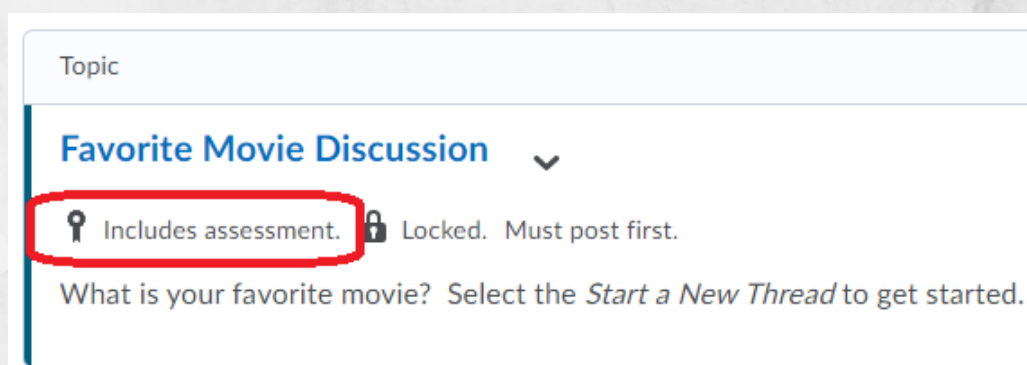
● If you use the D2L Rubrics tool, you can link to a Rubric. You can also choose to assess each individual post a student makes.

● To save your choices, select **Save** or **Save and Close**.

You can tell whether a Topic is linked to the Gradebook by looking for the **ribbon icon**.
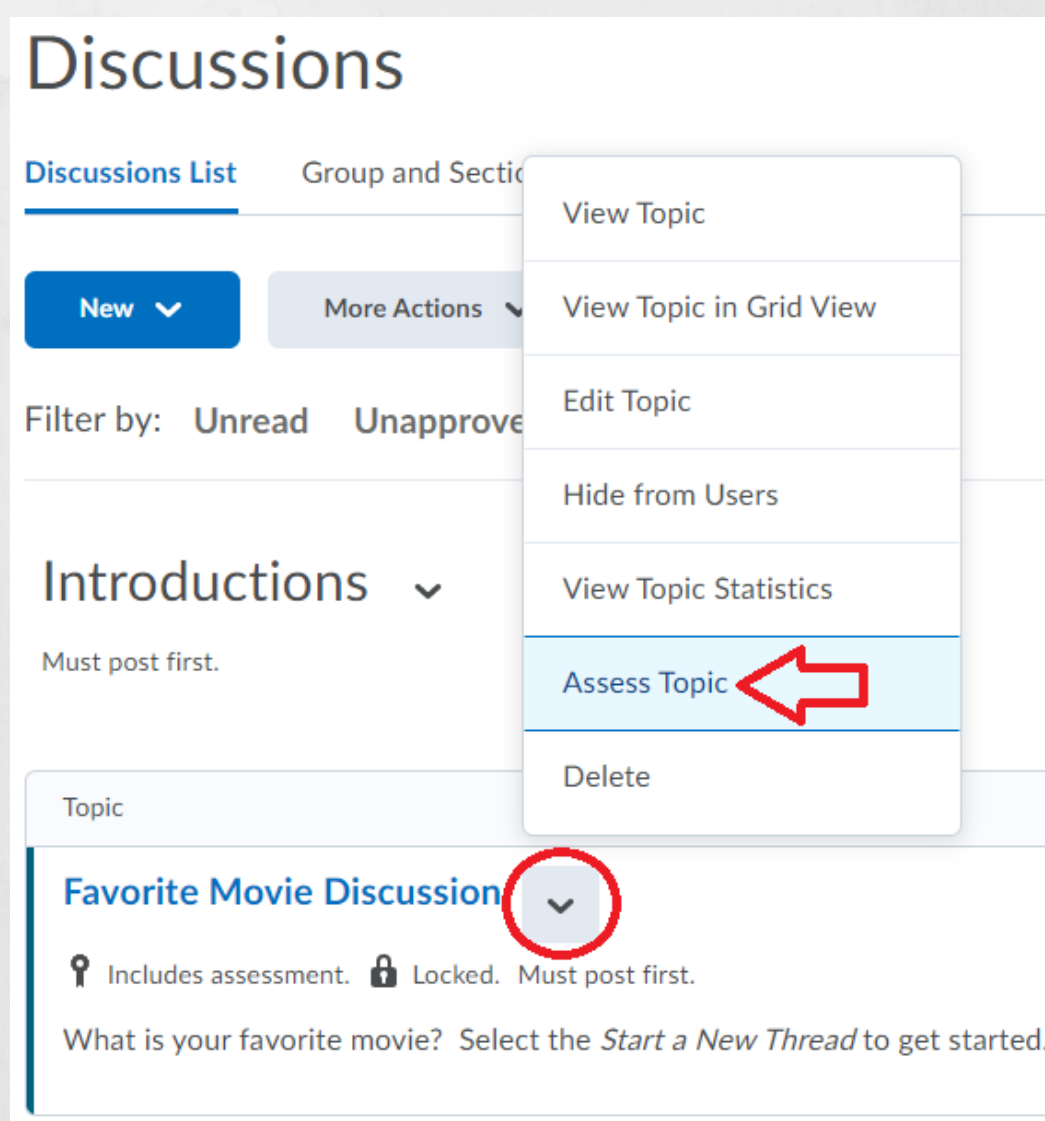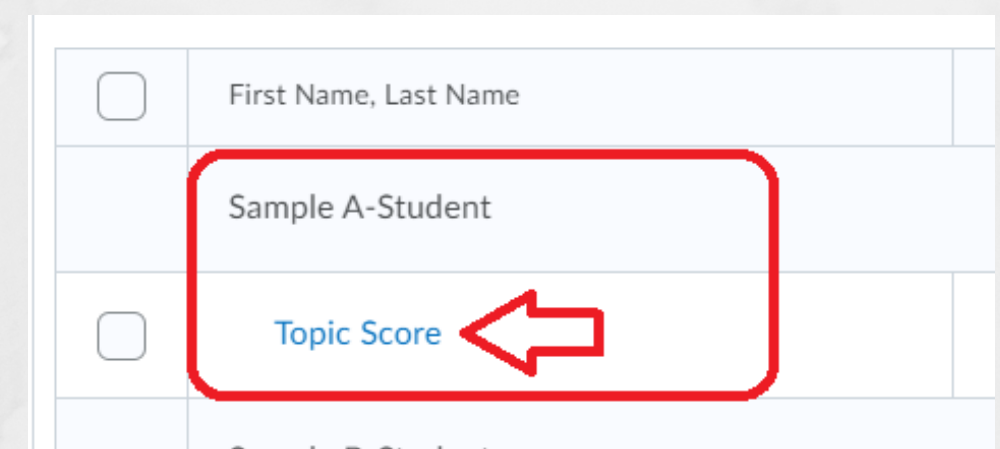
Assessing/Grading Discussions
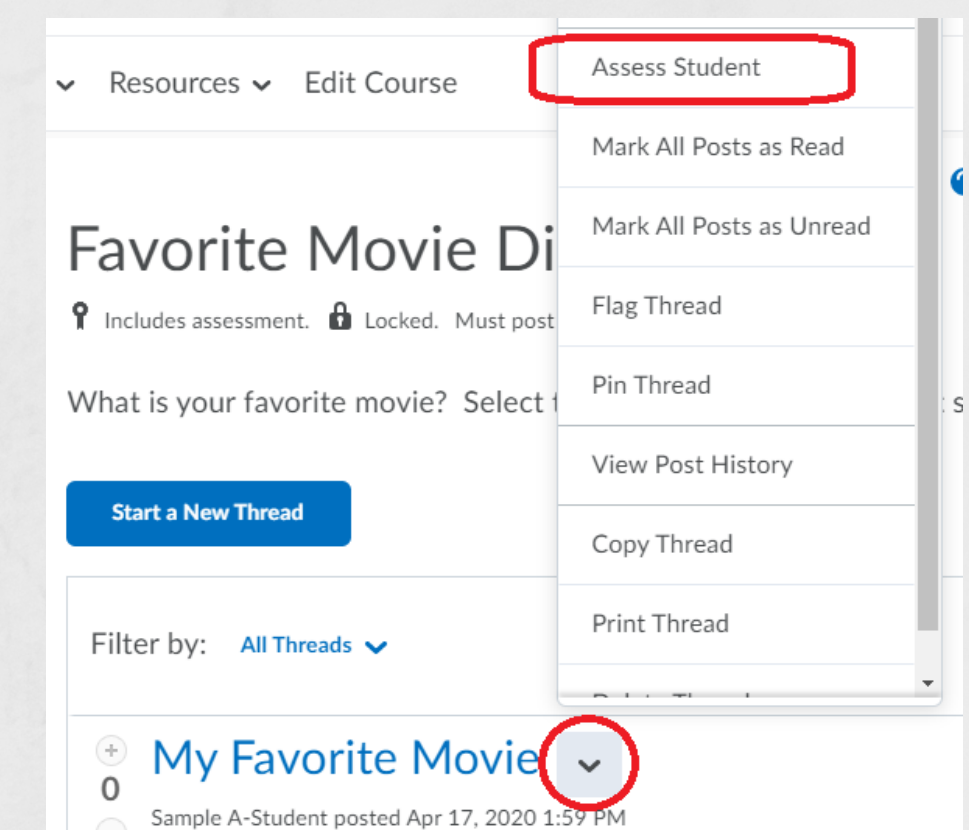There are two ways to get to the assessment area:

Option 1:
● Open the menu beside a Topic and select **Assess Topic**.

● On the next screen, you will see a list of your students. Select **Topic Score** to see their posts and assess their work.

● **Option 2:** Open the menu on a student's post in a Topic and select **Assess Student**.

● In the pop-up window, you can do the following to assess the student's work:
1. Enter a score in the **Topic Score** field
2. Leave the student **General Feedback**
3. View all posts the student made for the Topic
4. Click **Publish** to save their score and feedback, or **Save Draft** should you not wish to publish just yet.