

**APSU Writing Center**  
Discussion Boards

**Discussion Board Posts**

- Discussion boards are spaces for thoughtful academic conversation outside the classroom.
- Posts typically range from 250–400 words and require a focused response to a prompt using course concepts and readings.
- Always review your syllabus or instructor’s guidelines for specific requirements.

**Before You Post**

- Draft your response in a separate document to save your work.
- Carefully read the prompt and identify all required questions.
- Review relevant readings or course materials.

**How to Write a Strong Discussion Post**

- Clearly respond to each part of the question.
- State your central claim or perspective early in the post.
- Refer to course readings, lectures, or credible sources to support your ideas.
- Analyze and explain how the evidence supports your point.
- Write clearly and professionally.
- End with a thoughtful question or insight that invites peer responses.

**Writing Effective Responses to Classmates**

- Add new insight rather than repeating what was said.
- Explain why you agree or disagree using evidence or reasoning.
- Ask a meaningful follow-up question.
- Be respectful and professional, even in disagreement.

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**Basic Online Post Guidelines**

- Stay focused on the topic.
- Support your claims with credible evidence.
- Use proper grammar and clear organization.
- Acknowledge differing viewpoints respectfully.

**Before Submitting, Ask Yourself:**

- Is my main idea clear and relevant?
- Have I engaged thoughtfully with the required readings?
- Do I support my ideas with evidence?
- Is my tone academic and professional?
- Have I proofread for clarity and grammar?

**Introduction:** (Introduce your main idea or question. You do not need to state your name.)

**Body:** ( Present 1–2 key points with supporting evidence and explanation.)

**Conclusion:** (Summarize your point and invite further discussion.)



## APSU Writing Center

### References

Lai, S. (2016). *Do's and Don'ts of Online Posts*. San José State University Writing Center.

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Regent Writing Lab (2021). *Discussion Board Posts*. Regent University.

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University Writing & Speaking Center. (n.d.). *Writing a successful discussion board post*.

University of Nevada, Reno. <https://www.unr.edu/writing-speaking-center/student-resources/writing-speaking-resources/writing-a-successful-discussion-board-post>

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