

Rubric for Assessing Students' Contributions to Online Discussion Forum

Pallaff, R. and Pratt, K. (2009). Assessing the online learner. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass. pp. 80-81

Criteria	Unacceptable 0 Points	Acceptable 1 Point	Good 2 Points	Excellent 3 Points
Frequency	Participates not at all.	Participates one or two times on the same day.	Participates three or four times but postings not distributed throughout week.	Participates four or five times throughout the week.
Initial Assignment Posting	Posts no assignments.	Posts an adequate assignment with superficial thought and preparation; doesn't address all aspects of the task.	Posts a well-developed assignment that addresses all aspects of the task; lacks full development of concepts.	Posts a well-developed assignment that fully addresses and develops all aspects of the task.
Follow-Up Postings	Posts no follow-up responses to others.	Posts a shallow contribution to the discussion (for example, simply agrees or disagrees); does not enrich discussion.	Elaborates on an existing posting with further comment or observation.	Demonstrates analysis of others' posts; extends meaningful discussion by building on previous posts.
Content Contribution	Posts information that is off topic, incorrect, or irrelevant to the discussion.	Repeats but does not add substantive information to the discussion.	Posts information that is factually correct; lacks full development of concept or thought.	Posts a factually correct, reflective, and substantive contribution; advances discussion.
References and Support	Includes no references or supporting experience.	Uses personal experience, but no references to readings or research.	Incorporates some references from literature and personal experience.	Uses references to literature, readings, or personal experience to support comments.
Clarity and Mechanics	Posts long, unorganized, or rude content that may contain multiple errors or may be inappropriate.	Communicates in a friendly, courteous, and helpful manner, with some errors in clarity or mechanics.	Contributes valuable information to the discussion, with minor clarity or mechanics errors.	Contributes to discussion with clear, concise comments formatted in an easy-to-read style free of grammatical or spelling errors.