Start Discussion Topics in Blackboard

Communicating with learners in Blackboard takes several forms. A discussion works like an office bulletin board. For this task, you establish a discussion forum and start the conversation as shown in these steps:

1. On the Blackboard Control Panel, click the Discussion Board link.
2. Click the Add Forum button.

When you click Add Forum, you see the page shown in the following figure. It sets up a space for you and your learners to trade notes for the rest of the class to view.

![Add Forum](image)

Create a bulletin board, also known as a Discussion Forum.

3. Enter a name for the forum in the Title text field.
4. In the Description text box, type a brief explanation of the topic to be discussed in this forum.

This text appears below the link (the forum title) for learners to read before proceeding to the messages within this forum.

5. Enable or disable the check boxes in the Forum Settings field.

After you scroll down the page to the next section, you can turn options on or off specifically for this forum.

6. Click the Submit button to create the forum.
7. Click OK on the receipt page that appears.

   This action returns you to the Discussion Forums page. After you create the forum, your next task is to post the first note to which you want learners to reply.

8. Click the forum name you just created to enter this topic area.
9. Click the Add New Thread button.

   Now that you’re inside the forum you created, the conversation can begin.

10. Enter the subject in the Subject text field, and the message in the Message text box.

   This is your first message to the class of learners who will read this Discussion Forum.

11. Click the Submit button.

Look — signs of life in your course!

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**Blackboard Grouping Guide**

1. Select the class that you want to group, get to the homepage
2. Look in course management and click on groups and users link
3. Click on groups
4. Click on create a single group
5. Click on manual enroll (this is better for differentiation)

6. Create a name for the group
7. Type in Agenda, Objective and any other information the students might need
8. Make sure to make the group available

9. Click on any tools that the group will need to use
10. Click on students names and hit the arrow key to add students to the group
11. Click submit

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLgBuJ9o-oQ  (informational video on groups)

Student View
Group Properties

Group Description
Objective: Teachers will understand how to use the Grouping tool on Blackboard. Teachers will create a plan of action to use the tool in class.
Criteria:
- identify how to set up groups
- identify how to differentiate with groups using student work
- how to manually enroll students

Agenda:
1. pre-assessment survey
2. view grouping as a student
3. round table discussion
4. model/video if needed
5. mentees develop groups in their Bb
6. review of questions

Group Members
BLOUIN, GAIL
BOURQUE, JACLYN
CUNNINGHAM, STEPHANIE
DENHAM, VANESSA
HARPOLE, STEPHANIE
MANCUSO, COURTNEY
OURSO, MICHALYN
PROVENCHER, EMILY
SCHWARTZBERG, ERIN
SMITH, WENDY
STUTZMAN, ALISHA
ZERINGUE, JOANNE

Group Tools
File Exchange
Group Discussion Board
Group Journal
Group Tasks

Group Assignments